

THE GENTILES, THE JEWS, AND JESUS CHRIST  
EPH. 2:11-18

Introduction:

- A. From the giving of the law to the fulfilling of the law there were two kinds of people on the earth.
  - 1. The Covenant people, the Jews.
  - 2. The "strangers from the covenants" the Gentiles.
  
- B. Today there are still two kinds of people.
  - 1. The covenant people, the true church.
  - 2. The unsaved and uncommitted.

I. THE GENTILE AND THE JEW BEFORE JESUS CHRIST. V11

- A. "Wherefore remember, that ye being in times past, gentiles in the flesh."
  - 1. remember = mneoneuo = to call to mind, one's own or anothers.
  - 2. Gentiles = ethnos = a number of people living together by like habits and customs; the emphasis is on like customs rather than descent or language.
  - 3. flesh = sarks = the outward form of human nature.
  
- B. "Who are called uncircumcision by that which is called the circumcisiion in the flesh made by hands."
  - 1. uncircumcision = akrobustia = the foreskin.
  - 2. circumcision = peritome = a cutting all around.
  - 3. flesh = sarks.
  - 4. hand = cheiropoiotos = made with hands.
  
- C. Jew and Gentile were not to mix.
  - 1. Deut. 7:1-6, 3,4.
  - 2. We may think God a bigot!

II. THE GENTILES WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST. V12

- A. "that at that time ye were without Christ."



1. time = kairos = time, season.
2. without Christ.==

B. "being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel."

1. aliens = apallotrioo = to estrange, state, condition
2. commonwealth = politeia = citizenship, The government of Israel as framed by God in religion and polity.

C. "strangers from the covenants of promise."

1. strangers = ksenos = strange to something.
2. covenants = diatheke = treaty, agreement.
3. promise = epaggelia = declaration made on account of something, a promise, an offer.

D. "having no hope, and without God in the world."

1. no hope = elpis = expectation of something future.
2. without God = atheos.

### III. THE GENTILES IN JESUS CHRIST. V13

A. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

1. in Christ Jesus.
2. afar off = makran = far, far off.
3. nigh = eggus = near, of time and place.

B. "by the blood of Christ."

### IV. THE JEW AND GENTILE IN CHRIST JESUS. V14-18

A. v14 "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us"

1. He, is our peace = eirene = rest, in contrast with strife and denoting the absence of strife.
2. having made both one = Jew and Gentile.

3. middle wall = mesotoichon = dividing wall.
4. partition = phragmos = a fence or railing for protection, fence.
5. broken down = lusas = to loose, to destroy, to break down, Aorist tenst points to completed action.
6. What was this "Middle wall of partition?"

These three courts and the temple were embraced in the "chel" or sacred inclosure. The inclosing barrier was triple: the wall of the courts of Israel and the women, which has been already mentioned, and which was very thick, like the walls of a fortress (cp. War vi. 4, 1); a terrace, of which the top was level and 10 cubits broad; and at the foot of the terrace a wall 3 cubits in height, surmounted by pillars, on which were inscriptions forbidding all persons save those of the commonwealth of Israel, from entering the inclosure. "Let no gentile," so ran the Greek inscription, "enter inside of the barrier and the fence around the sanctuary, Anyone trespassing will bring death upon himself as a penalty."

7. Acts 21:27-31.

1. Inner court.
2. Priest's court.
3. Court of women.
4. Court of Gentiles.

B. v15, "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances"

1. abolished = katapgeo = to make useless, to nullify.
2. his flesh = in Himself.
3. enmity = echthros = opposite to and hating another.
4. commandments = entole = that which has been enjoined, precepts, a moral injunction.
5. ordinances = dogma = decrees, the law of Moses.
6. The Law of Moses forbade the Jews to mingle with Gentiles.
7. Lev. 18:3; Lev. 25:44; Lev. 20:22-26.

C. "for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace."

1. to make = ktise = to create.
2. Christ made in Himself of two, Jew and Gentile, one body, the church and thereby created or brought about by purpose, peace.

D. v16, "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.."

1. reconcile = apokatalassoo = to change, to turn from hostility to friendship, to restore to primal unity.
2. cross = stauros = the shameful death, an execution.
4. slain = apokteino = to kill outright, put to death.

E. v17, "And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."

1. afar off = makran = far, far off, Gentiles.
2. nigh = eggus = near, of time and place, Jews.

F. "for through him we both have access by one spirit unto the Father."

1. through him = hoti di = because through Him.
2. access = prosagogogen = entrance, solemn approach to a diety, access to a King's presence.

V. GOD IN JESUS CHRIST HAS BROUGHT INTO BEING PEACE BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE AND HIMSELF.

