



**WELCOME!!**

*PAUL'S  
LETTER TO  
THE  
EPHESIANS*



# TODAY'S CLASS

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- **EPHESIANS 2:11-22**
- **LET'S TALK ABOUT CHURCH!**

**WHAT WAS  
CHURCH  
FOR YOU  
GROWING  
UP?**



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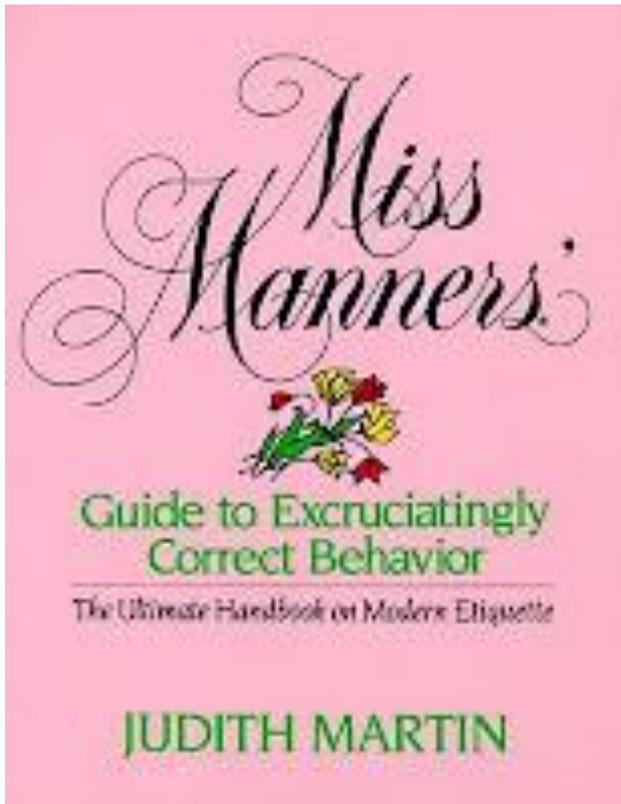
## INTRODUCTION:

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Ephesians 2:11-22 unveils a new aspect of the work of Christ: the reconciliation of people not only to God *but also to one another.*

# TRANSITION!

- While Ephesians 2:1-10 was a narrative dealing with **the redemption of the individual**, 2:11-22 is a narrative dealing with the reconciliation and **re-creation of a group**



# SOCIAL GRACES

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Or:

White Gloves, Anyone?

# INTRODUCTION:

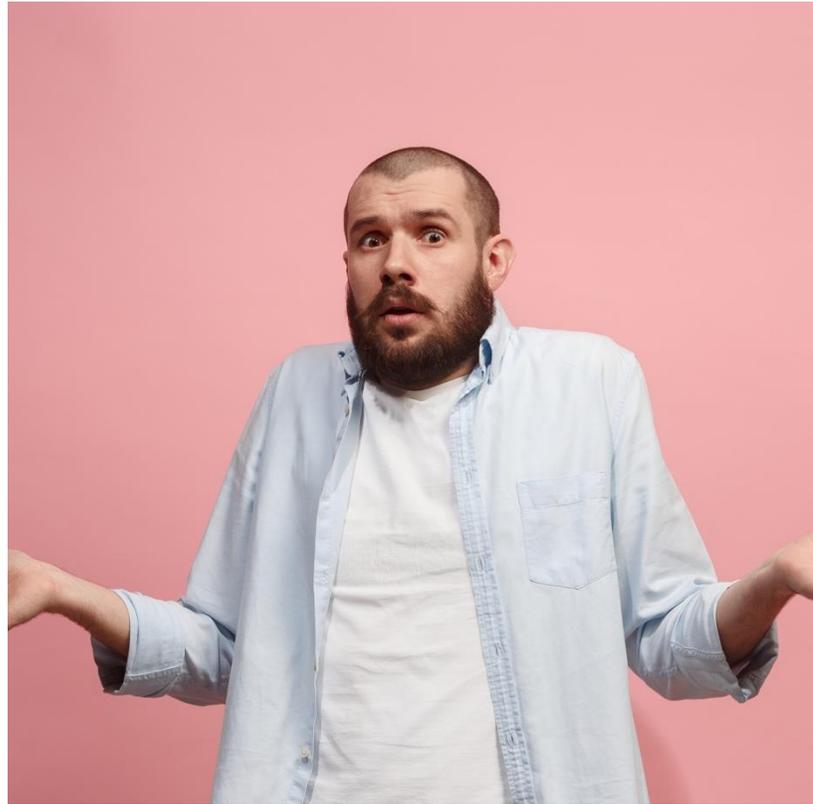
## Gentile Christians in Asia Minor

- The dispute in the early church about the admission of Gentile-Christians as full and equal members with Jewish-Christians had lost its virulence by the time of *Ephesians* - *But there was still a desperate need for unity*
- A big numerical superiority of Gentiles in Asia Minor  
*(To whom this circular letter is addressed)*

# RXNS TO THE CHURCH

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The church would be great if it weren't for the people.

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The problem is, I am one of those people.

# FLOW OF EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Three sections:

- vv 11-13: This was your predicament
- vv 14-18: This is what God has done for you in Christ.
- vv 19-22: This is your new reality  
(which you share with us)

## EPHESIANS 2:11-13

<sup>11</sup> So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

## EPHESIANS 2:14-16

<sup>14</sup> **For he is our peace;** in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, <sup>15</sup> abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

## EPHESIANS 2:17-20

<sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, <sup>18</sup> for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone;

## EPHESIANS 2:21-22:

<sup>21</sup> in him the whole structure is joined together and grow

→ into a holy temple in the Lord,

<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually

→ into a dwelling place for God.

**EPH**  
**2:11-13**

**INSIDERS / OUTSIDERS**

## EPHESIANS 2:11-13

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## EPHESIANS 2:11

“You Gentiles” vs. “us Jews” – both are now Christians, but Jews were originally “insiders” re: God’s covenant

- In 2:1-10, the “once you were / but now you are” dynamic was “sinner / saved”.
- In 2:11-22, it is “outsider to God / within God’s people”

# EPHESIANS 2:11 -- CIRCUMCISION

- The external mark of belonging to God's people.
- Paul re-interpreted the meaning of circumcision (Phil 3:2-4), radicalizing a stance already taken in 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism – “circumcision of the heart” distinguishes those with a true devotion to God from other Jews (Deut 10:16; Jer 4:4).



# EPH 2:12 – “WITHOUT” of OUTSIDERS

The unbelieving Gentiles were:

- without Christ
- aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
- strangers to the covenants of promise
- without hope
- without God

## EPH 2:13 – ONCE FAR, NOW NEAR

- A double image
  - Temporal (once / now)
  - Spatial (far / near)
- The “saving passive”
- This turn of events is “surrounded” by Christ (in both Greek & English).
- “In Christ” is instrumental, location and definitional

**EPH**  
**2:14-18**

**BREAKING DOWN /**  
**CREATING ANEW**

## EPHESIANS 2:14-16

<sup>14</sup> For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, <sup>15</sup> abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

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## EPH 2:14-18 -- ACTION-PACKED!

1. Christ is our peace
2. Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility
3. Christ has abolished the law
4. Christ has created one new humanity in place of the two
5. Christ has made peace
6. Christ has reconciled us to God (and one another), putting to death the hostility on the cross
7. Christ provides access through one Spirit to the Father

# JEW-GENTILE RE-CREATION

Each of these seven actions describe ways God has brought peace/reconciliation/unity/new creation to Jews & Gentiles as one people.

# INDIVIDUAL & SOCIAL GRACE

Individual Grace (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**“If anyone is in Christ, s/he is a new creation”**

Social Grace (Ephesians 2:15)

**“that Christ might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two.”**

# SALVATION'S MEANS & ENDS

Ends:

1. One newly-created humanity
2. Peace

Means:

1. Abolishing the law
2. Through the cross

*EPH*  
*2:19-22*

**GOD'S NEW PEOPLE:  
ONE CHURCH**

**WELCOME  
TO THE  
FAMILY!**

## EPH 2:19-22

<sup>19</sup> So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, **but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,** <sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; <sup>21</sup> in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> **in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.**

# OUTSIDERS ARE NOW INSIDERS

->NOT: strangers, aliens

->BUT: fellow citizens with the saints (*Hagios*)  
members of the household  
a holy temple/dwelling place for God

# A NEW TEMPLE

- Paul takes “. . . one of the central symbols of Judaism and turn it inside out.”

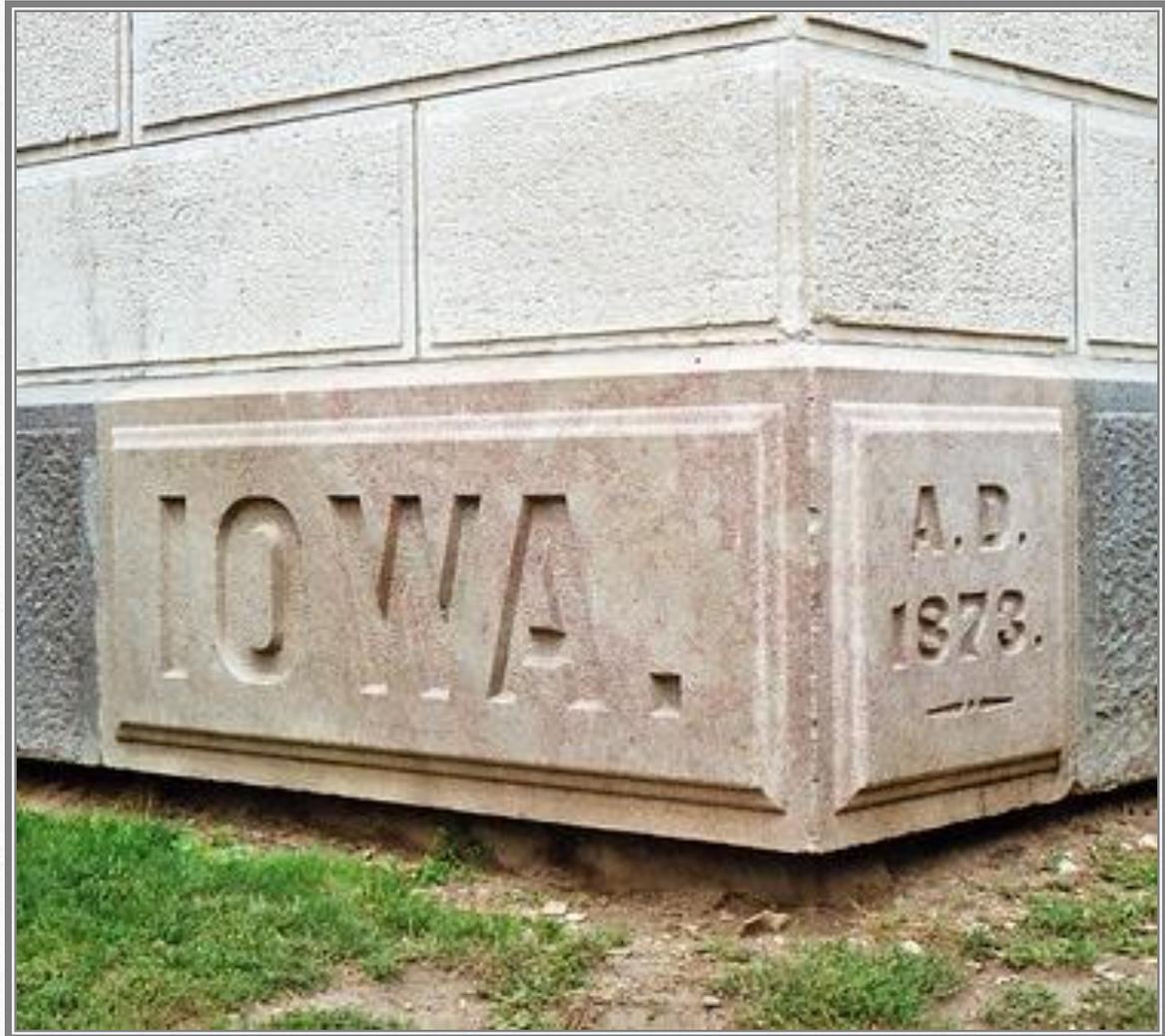
- “It (the temple) was, many believed, the place where earth and heaven met. . . . **But now Paul is declaring that the living God is constructing a new temple.** It consists not of stones, arches, pillars and altars, but of human beings.”

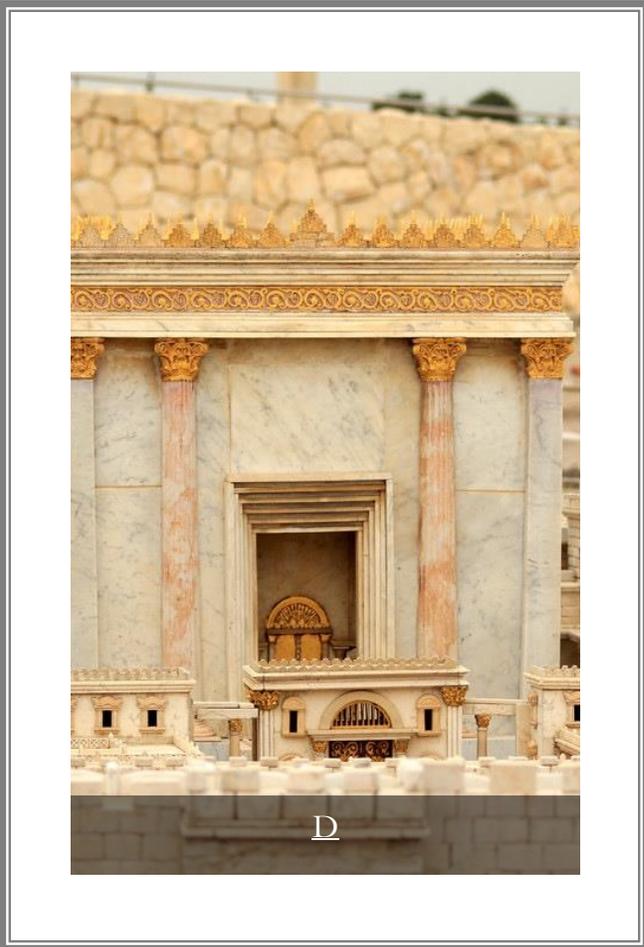
(NT Wright)

## V 20 – A FIRM FOUNDATION

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built upon the  
foundation of the  
apostles and  
prophets, with Christ  
Jesus himself as the  
cornerstone





# A LIVING STRUCTURE

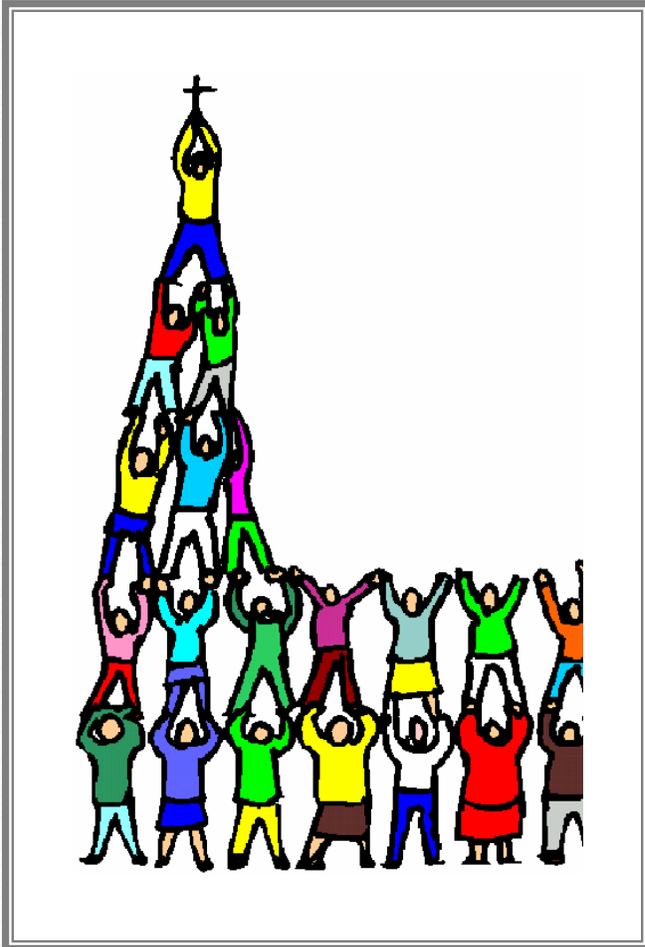
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- in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place (katoikētērion) for God.



“Apostles and prophets are foundation stones. Jesus is the cornerstone (or keystone.) And we are whatever else makes up the structure: rafters and joists, flooring and roofing, door and window frames.”

Eugene Peterson



# THE CHURCH AS THE NEW TEMPLE

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Temple metaphor-Body metaphor

- United/joined together
- Filled with God's life (Spirit)
- Headed/centered in Jesus
- Living and growing



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# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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- **CHRIST IS BUILDING US UP INTO A BRAND NEW PEOPLE**
  - **WHO WILL LIVE TOGETHER IN LOVE**
  - **and**
  - **WITH WHOM HE WILL LIVE AND DWELL FOREVER.**
- (V19-22)





- NEXT WEEK:  
*GLOBAL*  

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*MISSIONS*

- OCTOBER 13:  
*FINAL CLASS!*  
  
EPHESIANS 4-6

## ...And Just To Clear the Air...

- **EPHESIANS 5:22**
- *“Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.”*

