

Ephesians

More than a Makeover

“I was _____. But God _____. So now _____.”

Ephesians 2:11-22

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / November 3, 2024

Ephesians 2:11-22 “Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. You need to understand where you would be without God’s sovereign, saving grace.

Ephesians 2:11-12 “Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

A. You were separate from Christ.

Ephesians 2:12 “...remember that you were at that time **separated from Christ...**”

B. You were alienated from those who were faithfully living as God’s people.

Ephesians 2:12 “...alienated from the commonwealth of Israel...”

C. You had no access to God’s promises.

Ephesians 2:12 “...strangers to the covenants of promise...”

D. You were hopeless.

Ephesians 2:12 “...having no hope...”

E. You were Godless.

Ephesians 2:12 “...without God in the world.”

II. You need to understand reconciliation in Christ—horizontally and vertically!

Ephesians 2:13-18 “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

A. Christ reconciles us “horizontally” to each other.

- a. Those who were once far off are now nearer than they could ever be! (Eph. 2:13)
- b. There is no need for hostility to separate us from each other because we have the peace of Christ uniting us in Him! (Eph. 2:14-15)

B. Christ reconciles us “vertically” to God!

- a. We’re not just brought to each other, but brought together to God. (Eph. 2:16-17)
- b. We have access to the Father we’d never have without Christ. (Eph 2:18)

III. So now, we’re citizens of God’s Kingdom, and members of God’s family forever!

Ephesians 2:19-22 “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

Pastor Peter said this particular passage in Ephesians reminds us of (a) what we were, (b) what God did, and (c) the difference it makes in our lives. Consider how you might fill in the blanks below with what you would be without Christ; what Christ has done in reconciling you to Him and His people; and what difference that makes in your life now and forever.

I was _____.

But God _____.

So now _____.