

A Sure Foundation: The Letter To The Ephesians

5 – A NEW COMMUNITY (EPHESIANS 2:11-22)

I. Our Condition as Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-13)

A. Our Past Condition (Ephesians 2:11-12)

- Paul calls his readers to remember their past condition as unbelieving Gentiles.
- They were called uncircumcision by those who were circumcised, the Jews.
- The phrase “made in the hands by flesh” refers to the covenantal requirement of the Law.
- Gentiles had no claim in the Messiah or Christ.
- Gentiles were aliens from the nation Israel.
- Gentiles were strangers to the promises of the covenants, meaning they had no part in them.
- Gentiles had no hope and were without God in this world.

B. Our Present Condition (Ephesians 2:13)

- While we were once far off, we have been brought near in Christ by his blood or sacrifice.

II. Christ’s Work (Ephesians 2:14-18)

- Jesus Christ is the peace between Jews and Gentiles.
- Jesus Christ broke down the wall of separation or hostility between Jews and Gentiles.
- Through his death, Jesus abolished the enmity that came through the Law.
- Jesus did this so that he could create a new man from the two, which results in peace.
- Through the cross, Jesus reconciles them in one body, which puts the enmity to death.
- Jesus came to preach peace to those who were far off, Gentiles, and those who were near, Jews.
- Through Jesus Christ, both groups have access to the Father through the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

III. A Holy Temple (Ephesians 2:19-22)

- Gentile believers are no longer strangers and foreigners, but citizens and family members.

A Sure Foundation: The Letter To The Ephesians

- The household of God is built on the foundation of the apostles and New Testament prophets.
- The chief cornerstone of this foundation is Jesus Christ himself.
- In Christ, the household, being fitted together grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:5

you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- The believers are being built together as a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.