

LESSON 5 - EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Chapter two uncovers the variety of people the Gospel effects and embraces. First, in Genesis the Jews were entrusted with God's plan of salvation. Through the years, they developed coldness toward God's work and plan for them. Rather than reach out to the Gentiles, the Jews became more and more segregated. The Gentiles, on the other hand, were hopelessly lost, needing salvation but seeking it through pagan means, which added to this chasm of separation. Beginning in verse 11-22, Paul addresses this cultural friction and the antidote to disunity.



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

1. What is the central lesson or principle being taught in this section of Scripture?
 - a. How does it relate to the theme of the letter?

2. Have you ever felt separate, excluded, or without hope?

3. Imagine what it would be like hearing this staggering message of reconciliation for the first time. What would your initial thoughts be?



MIXING THE MORTAR

Read verses 11-18.

4. In these verses, Paul calls upon his Gentile readers—those referred to by the Jews as uncircumcised—to remember their former state. How does Paul describe the Gentiles' spiritual condition before Christ?

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5. Review Romans 2:28–29. What is the type of circumcision God desires?

a. How is this made possible today?

b. Is there anything that needs to be circumcised from your heart today? Spend a moment to review the following list and settle this issue in prayer before moving on.

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|----------------|--------------|
| Pride | Selfishness |
| Lovelessness | Jealousy |
| Hypocrisy | Stubbornness |
| Ungratefulness | Criticism |
| Materialism | Anger |

Read Ezekiel 36:36–37, Psalm 51:10–11 as a comfort and encouragement to the prayer you have just made.

CUTTING THE STONE



When was the last time you remembered what your life was like before Christ? Take a moment to recall your salvation experience. Is there anything that stands out to you above everything else? Take a moment to express your gratitude and thanksgiving for your specific salvation.

*Nothing more inspires gratitude in a saved sinner
than a look back to the pit from which she has come.*

6. What kinds of barriers separate people today?
 - a. Briefly define and explain reconciliation, as you understand it.
 - b. Is there any hope of true reconciliation today? Please explain.

7. In what ways had the Gentiles been separated from the Jews?
 - a. What brought about their reconciliation?

8. What wall separated us from a relationship with God?
 - a. How did Christ remove that wall?
 - b. In your own words, explain how a person's "status" immediately changes when she or he becomes reconciled to God.

9. Moving to verse 14, what do people typically think of when they hear the word “peace”?
10. Explain how Christ is our peace.

STONE QUARRY



Look up the definition of the word “peace” and study Paul’s use of the word in the context of Ephesians 2. Using your Bible concordance, find other Scriptures—both Old and New Testament—that also describe peace. Choose one of these verses to memorize and meditate on this week.

*“Peace comes only when self dies, and the only place
self truly dies is at the foot of Calvary.”*

John MacArthur

11. It can be hard to admit, but everyone harbors some kind of prejudice. Prejudice is NOT designated only to racial backgrounds. Prejudice is a preconceived idea about another person—their social status, personality type, political views, etc. How can we as believers guard against any prejudice toward those of backgrounds different from our own?
12. What are some things we can do to demonstrate unity between genuine believers of different churches and denominations?
- a. What is our common ground?

CUTTING THE STONE



Search your own heart. Have you erected an invisible barrier or wall of some kind in your life? Something that keeps you separated from Christ? Or from other believers? Write it out and pray for God's peace to destroy that barrier as He did for the Jews and Gentiles.

13. In verse 16, Paul states that reconciliation with God and men is found only at the cross of Christ. Unfortunately, people today seek to skirt that truth. What mechanisms of reconciliation do people typically turn to today?
14. Reconciliation with God first is the basis for reconciliation among believers. What implications does this have for Christian unity?
- a. How can God use you to bring about reconciliation between other people, as well as between others and God?
15. What is the result of Christ's work described in verse 18?
- a. In light of this verse, how many avenues of "access" to God do we have?



USING A TROWEL

Read verses 19-22.

16. In verses 19–22, what three metaphors does Paul use to describe the believer's new relationship to God?

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- _____
- _____

17. What is the foundation Paul refers to in verse 20?

18. What are the practical implications of being built on a sure foundation?

a. How does this apply to the Church today?

19. What is a cornerstone?

a. Why do you think Jesus was described as the chief cornerstone?

20. What impact does Paul's metaphor of believers as a dwelling place of God have on you personally?

CUTTING THE STONE



The fact that we are being fitted together as stones and growing into a holy temple in the Lord implies a process. New stones are added as people get saved. To be fitted together, the divine stone mason has to chip off our rough edges, which is often a painful process! What do you see the Lord doing in your life as He is shaping you into His image and helping you fit together in the building of this holy temple?

"The true glory of the church of God consists in the fact that she is not only a building, but that she is a habitation."



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Chapter two reveals life issues of separation, reconciliation, and restoration. Take a moment to answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message. Read Ephesians 2:11–22.

1. What are some of the consequences of being separated from God?

2. Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced reconciliation with a family member or friend? What happened?

- a. What brought about the reconciliation?
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3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18. Jesus Christ is our great Reconciler, but He has also called each of us into the role of reconciliation. In light of that, is there anyone in your immediate family or friendships that need reconciliation? What is your personal responsibility today as a believer?
 - a. Is there anyone you recognize as an outsider in the church? What can you do to make reconciliation?
 - b. Can you describe a time when you experienced the oneness that believers have in Christ despite any human obstacles or barriers (e.g., language, culture, race)?
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4. Explain Christ abolishment of the law?
 - a. Does this mean that as Christians we no longer need to obey the law? Why or why not?

