



Earth's Most Remarkable People Group

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Israel is the epicenter of all historical and soteriological reality.

I. **Gentiles (non-Jews) were strangers to God's hope and promises until He changed their _____.** (vv. 11-13)

A. The Gentiles had none of five distinct blessings given to the Jews. (vv. 11-12)

CHRISTLESS : NO NATIONAL HOPE OF A MESSIAH

STATELESS : EXCLUDED FROM LIVING IN A THEOCRATIC UNION

COVENANTLESS : FOREIGNERS TO THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

HOPELESS : NO FUTURE MESSIANIC AGE TO LOOK FORWARD TO

GODLESS : LIVING IN A DESPERATE SITUATION WITHOUT MEANING

B. **BUT ...** God's grace brought Jews and Gentiles near to each other and to Himself by the blood of Jesus. (v. 13)

II. **The Jewish nation built a wall of _____ between others and God, but Jesus tore it down.** (vv. 14-18)

A. The Jews were chosen as means of God's redemptive purpose, yet lived in discord with Him and the nations. (v. 14)

B. **BUT ...** in Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are brought from enmity to amity. (vv. 15-18)

HOW GOD CREATED A NEW PEOPLE GROUP

1. Jesus fulfilled of the Law, _____ the barrier of animosity to reconcile Jews and Gentiles. (v. 15)

2. Jesus died on the cross to _____ together two distinct bodies into one. (v. 16)

3. Jesus sacrificed to allow this new body to be at _____ within itself. (v. 17)

4. Jesus is the conduit whereby the new people group gains _____ to the Father through one Spirit. (v. 18)

Because of This Union ... (vv. 19-22)

Your primary citizenship in Christ—not national but *spiritual*—is part of a _____ people group: the church. (v. 19)

Apart from Jesus the _____, this new people group loses direction and impact. (v. 20)

The church must guard its _____ in order to extend the same peace to others as they come. (v. 21)

We may not look the same, but we are together one holy people group connected by His _____. (v. 22)



SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

1. Read Genesis 12:1-9 and Genesis chapter 15. This is the background of how God chose Israel to be the means by which He would save the world. Explain how familiar you are with this story, and why Israel is the epicenter of all cultural and redemptive history.

2. The United States has recently declared that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and relocated our embassy to that city. The Palestinians have disputed this for a long time and claim is as their own. How do you see this situation? Do you think it's fair that God would give preference to the people of Israel? Why?

3. How have the Jews fallen into spiritual pride over time because God chose them above any other people in the world? What should they have done to combat this? How do you fall into the same trap as a follower of Jesus?

4. Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Of all people groups, Christians should most embrace those of other races. How did the sacrifice of Jesus kill the hostility between the races? What are you most thankful for in this?

5. What in the sermon particularly helped you grasp this passage of Ephesians?

In this passage of Ephesians, Paul is trying to communicate the importance of **UNITY**. It's particularly crucial to understand that the Christian reflects the character of God by promoting and acting in unity.

**CHRIST
OVER ALL**

For the leadership of Christ Chapel this idea of unity has always been a focus, and is one of our foundational core values. As you ponder the sermons in this series, consider how important unity is to the church in Ephesus and also to churches today. As an individual, your every action influences the body of the church for good or bad. How have you acted in the past that works against unity? What can you do to promote unity, even when it's difficult?

As you close, pray for the unity of our own church and for the church worldwide, that all would focus on how we share one blood, one source—Jesus Christ.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

IT'S TIME FOR CONNECT 2 SUMMER! Head to the Link Bridge today to find a fun summer group. Remember: groups only meet twice within two weeks, so the commitment is short. And, with over 30 groups doing all kinds of activities from play groups, songwriting and scrapbooking to game nights, grilling, museums, basketball and bike riding on the Trinity Trails, there's sure to be something you love. If you're looking for a way to meet more people at Christ Chapel or just have fun this summer, sign up!

LADIES, BRING A FRIEND TO THIS WEDNESDAY'S SUMMER SALAD LUNCH. We're excited to start another summer full of friends and amazing stories! Join us this Wednesday, June 13 at 11 a.m. in the Oak Room and you'll meet Judi Merrifield, a woman who has spent the last 20 years living in Asia and translating the Bible for a tribal people in the mountains. There's no need to sign up—just bring a salad to share and a friend who needs to hear about the love of God. Kids Care is available by RSVP for ages 0 to 11 at www.ccbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP.

DON'T MISS NEXT SUNDAY'S TA ETHNE MISSIONS LUNCHEON. We're hosting pastors from all over the globe next weekend and you're invited to come hang out with them next Sunday, June 17! Join us in the Oak Room at 12:15 p.m. to eat lunch and hear how God is at work all around the world. Kids Care is available for ages 0 to 11 by RSVP at www.ccbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP. Questions? Email Danella at DanellaH@christchapelbc.org.

FEEL LEFT OUT, LONELY, LESS THAN? SIGN UP FOR "UNINVITED." This new Soul Care group for women digs deep into God's Word to help you overcome the damage done by past hurts and fully grasp what it's like to live knowing you're fully and completely loved by Jesus. Open to women 18 and older, the group will meet on Thursdays, beginning on June 21, at 6:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Sign up today at www.ccbcsoulcare.org.

WIDOWS AND SINGLE MOMS, MANPOWER IS HERE FOR YOU. Working in small teams, ManPower serves single moms and widows by handling projects big and small around the house, from changing light bulbs to yard work and beyond. Ladies, if you'd like some extra help, it would be our joy to serve. Contact us at ManPower@christchapelbc.org. Guys, if you'd like to learn more about joining a ManPower team, email us this week too. Our next work day is this Saturday, June 16.

MAKE IT FACEBOOK OFFICIAL. From encouraging sermon clips and Coffee Talks to event info and looks behind the scenes, we're always posting something new on Facebook. Search "Christ Chapel Bible Church" to like and follow the page today!