

How the Gentiles Became Fellow Heirs



READ IT:

¹¹ Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands— ¹² *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; ¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

The main point: God’s inclusion of Gentiles in the one body is made possible through Christ’s reconciling death.



EXAMINE IT:

Observation—What do I see?

- Any repeated words? _____
- Who is the subject? _____
- Who is the object? _____
- What are the action verbs? _____
- What are the conjunctions? _____
- Any purpose clauses (“so that”)? _____
- Any commands? _____



OUTLINE IT:

Structure/Bones—What are the important markers?

A. The Gentiles' Condition "Without" Christ (v.12)

¹² *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

1. Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
2. Strangers from the covenants of promise
3. Having no hope
4. Without God in the world

B. The Gentiles' Condition "Through" Christ (vv.13-18)

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; ¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

1. Can now be "one body" with the Jews (vv.13-16)
2. Can now share "access" to the Father with the Jews (vv.17-18)

C. The Gentiles' Condition "in" Christ (vv.19-22)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

1. Are now "*fellow citizens with the saints*" (v.19a)
2. Are now "*members of the household of God*" (v.19b)
3. Are now part of "*a holy temple in the Lord*" (vv.20-22)



UNDERSTAND IT:

Interpretation—What does it mean?

Key words and theological and practical uses

What are the key words and why do they matter?

What is the key doctrine(s) and what other passages support it?

What are the uses of this doctrine in everyday life?



APPLY IT:

Choose which applications apply and how you will seek to practice it in your life today.

- What *instruction* does this text reinforce?
- What *error* does this text refute?
- What *duty* does this text require?
- What *prohibition* does this text forbid?
- What *examination* does this text call for?
- What *commitment* does this text declare?
- Is there an *example* to follow?
- Are there *commandments* to obey?
- Are there *errors* to avoid?
- Are there *sins* to forsake or confess?
- Are there *promises* to claim?
- Are there *principles* to implement?
- Are there *temptations* to resist?
- Are there *praises* to render?
- Are there *attitudes* to adjust?

Write it here: (bring it back with you next week to see if you applied it—I double-dog dare you!)

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