

Ephesians 2:11-22

At the heart of the gospel and salvation lies reconciliation. Salvation is God reaching out to humanity, opening the path of forgiveness and reconciliation. The gospel, the story of salvation, is about sinners like you and me, who were once enemies of God, experiencing His forgiveness and reconciliation through the grace of Jesus Christ's cross. However, salvation doesn't just stop at our relationship with God; it extends to enabling forgiveness and reconciliation among people.

Today's passage reveals the mystery of Jews and Gentiles becoming one in the church through Christ. At the time Ephesians was written, Jews and Gentiles harbored mutual hatred and contempt towards each other. Yet, upon hearing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ, they found unity within the church.

Particularly, through the phrase "Therefore, remember" in verse 11, the passage explains the unity between Gentiles and Jews. Reflecting on what we ought to consider for reconciliation, forgiveness, and unity within the lives of Christians, let's delve into the words of the passage together.

Firstly, we must contemplate the grace of salvation we've received (verses 11-13).

In verses 11-13 of today's passage, there's a distinction made between "then" and "now." It urges the Gentile Christians of the Ephesian church to consider who they were before believing in Jesus and who they became after. They were once called the uncircumcised, outsiders to Christ, outside the kingdom of God and His covenant, without hope and without God. Now, these Gentile Christians are called children of God, in Christ, brought near to God's kingdom and covenant, possessing hope and God Himself. This grace was given through "the blood of Christ" (verse 13).

Our ability as Christians to reconcile with unforgivable individuals is precisely because of the gospel we've received. When we understand the magnitude of the grace we've received, we experience the grace to forgive others.

Secondly, we should contemplate what the church is (verses 14-18).

In verse 15, Jesus is said to have broken down the dividing wall of hostility between Gentiles and Jews with His body, creating "one new man," which refers to the church. The term "one body" in verse 16 also refers to the church. Verse 18 speaks of being brought near to the Father through the Spirit, which is the calling into the church.

The church is the body of Christ that should manifest the power of the gospel and the presence of God to the world. How does the church demonstrate the power of the gospel and the presence of God? It's through forgiveness, reconciliation, and unity. The power of the gospel lies in reconciliation, and the church is where this power of the gospel is experienced. God has called us into the church to experience the power of the gospel and the history of faith through reconciliation, forgiveness, and unity.

Thirdly, we must consider that we are unfinished beings heading towards completion (verses 21-22).

In verses 21-22 of today's passage, verbs are expressed in the present continuous tense, indicating ongoing action. We are becoming a temple and are being built together. This implies that while something has begun, it hasn't been completed yet. This is crucial in Christian faith. We've become people who can experience the history of reconciliation, forgiveness, and unity. However, it's not yet complete.

We all lack love. There's no one on earth who is transformed into perfect love. Yet, Christians have already experienced grace and love. Therefore, though imperfect, we seek to be established in Christ's love, and today, we still seek God's grace.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13)

**Bible
Reading**

2/19(Mon)	2/20(Tue)	2/21(Wed)	2/22(Thur)	2/23(Fri)	2/24(Sat)	2/25(Sun)
Numbers 8-10	Numbers 11-13	Numbers 14-15	Numbers 16-18	Numbers 19-21	Numbers 22-23	Numbers 24-26

QT

Quiet Time Passage

2/19(Mon)	2/20(Tue)	2/21(Wed)	2/22(Thur)	2/23(Fri)	2/24(Sat)	2/25(Sun)
Mark 15:16-23	Mark 15:24-32	Mark 15:33-47	Mark 16:1-8	Mark 16:9-20	Joel 1:1-12	Joel 1:13-20

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Please share what you've newly realized or received grace through today's passage.
2. Share how significant it is to experience God's forgiveness and be reconciled with Him.
3. Discuss your thoughts on the idea that love and forgiveness are pathways to experiencing the power of the gospel in the church, and if applicable, how you would apply this in your life.