

*Ephesians—Walk, Wealth, Warfare  
Our Reality in Christ*

**LESSON 15—Ephesians 2.11-22**

*Continuing from our last study...*

**Prayer**

Start by praying over the passage and asking the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insights and wisdom in understanding it. Then read through the entire passage two or three times.

**Scripture Meditation/Memorization**

One of the most fundamental and rewarding Christian disciplines that pays back in full spiritual dividends is Bible meditation/memorization. It is an absolutely fundamental in the formation of your spiritual development, spiritual walk and faith growth. In Psalm 1:1-2 (NLT), the Psalmist warrior, King David said,

*“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.  
But they delight in the law of the Lord,  
meditating on it day and night.”*

Use the suggested verse(s) to meditate on during the course of this week's study.

**Memory Verse**

*“[22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”—Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)*

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**Ephesians 2:11-16—*One in Christ***

The separation and hatred between Jews and Gentiles in the first century was almost unimaginable. Jews were defiled merely by entering the house of a Gentile. If a Jew married a Gentile, their family would hold a funeral service for them and never speak to them again. Contemporary rabbis of this period taught that Gentiles were merely fuel for the fires of hell.

1. What was the sorry plight of the Gentiles prior to the coming of Christ?

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2. The basis for peace (Greek—*Eirene*, from which we get *serenity*) between ethnic groups is Jesus. What do the following verses teach about racial divisions after we come to Christ?

a. Galatians 3:28

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b. 1 Corinthians 12:13

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3. The barrier or wall separating the Jews and Gentiles in verse 14 is a reference to the enclosure for the Court of the Gentiles which kept them outside the temple grounds proper. Verse 15 tells us Jesus abolished the law, yet clearly Christ did not abolish the moral law (see Matthew 5:17).

a. What law did Jesus abolish (see Colossians 2:14–17)?

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b. Why was the removal of this law essential to breaking down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles?

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c. How did this parallel the teaching of the Jerusalem council in Acts 15:24–29?

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4. The Jews and Gentiles have been reconciled into one new body. The Greek language uses two different words that we translate as *new* in English. *Neos* means something newly made although not unique while *kainos*, used here, means something not only new in time but unique and never having been seen before. One commentator said it was like you melted a pound of silver and a pound of lead and upon mixing them formed two pounds of gold. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17 how is this possible?

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5. \*What role do you think you might have in breaking down barriers between yourself and others?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Question taken from *Galatians—Experiencing the Grace of Christ*, John Stott Bible Studies, InterVarsity Press-USA, 1998

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**Ephesians 2:17-22—*Built On the Foundation of Christ***

As I was writing this study the doorbell rang and two young Jehovah's Witnesses appeared. As with virtually all of the cults, their error starts with a misconception of Christ. Once a faulty cornerstone is set in place the entire building it supports is destined to fall. Having an accurate biblical view of Jesus is foundational to our faith.

1. Verse 17 is based upon Isaiah 57:19. It is significant that Peter, in the first evangelical outreach to Gentiles, also quotes this verse to Cornelius and his family. How did Peter apply this verse to his message to Cornelius in Acts 10:34–36?

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2. The word used for access was actually an official's position within the court of many kings. It was only through this access by the official that a person could gain their audience with the king. Because of Jesus' role as our High Priest, what statement about access to the King of heaven does the Hebrews writer make in Hebrews 4:16?

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3. Formerly, according to verse 19, the Gentiles were foreigners and strangers to God's kingdom, but according to Philippians 3:20–21, what is their current status due to Jesus?

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4. Verses 20–22 describe how every new believer is a living stone fitted into the temple of God (the church). What additional insights can you get from Peter as he writes to believers on this subject (see 1 Peter 2:4–5)?

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***Lesson 15 Summary/Take Away***

If one of your friends at work or a neighbor were to ask you what you did on Tuesday, you would tell them you went to a Bible study. The next question would likely be, “What did you learn?” We often summarize an entire athletic contest or a movie in a few brief sentences and easily convey the essence of the event. Now apply these same skills to give a summary of the passage in a sentence or two. Then, in an additional sentence or two, describe what impact this passage will have on how you live.

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***Memory Verse***

*“[22} In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”—Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)*

**Key Words / Phrases**

To avoid walking in circles when lost in the wilderness, survival instructors teach their students to pick out the most prominent point in the distant landscape and walk toward it. In a similar sense we need to pick out the single most important truth in this week’s study and apply it in our life as we walk toward Jesus and out of the wilderness. Please share with your group what that truth is for you and how will you apply it this week:

Access in one Spirit to the Father (Ephesians 2:18)

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