

"United in One Body"

Ephesians 2:11-22

Part 6

Introduction: In Ephesians 2 we have been looking at how all believers in this CHURCH AGE are UNITED IN ONE BODY and that is the body of Jesus Christ being the church. It is all possible because of the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

I. We are Brought Near

Notice Ephesians 2:13

Here in these verses we see how the church was formed. It is the blood of Jesus Christ that washes away our sins. There is nothing in this world as powerful as the blood of Jesus Christ for there is nothing in or of this world that can wash away our sins.

Notice Ephesians 2:14-16

We are told in verse 15 that Jesus abolished the ceremonial law. This was the part of the Law that separated the Jew from the Gentile nations. The feasts, sacrifices, offerings, laws of cleanliness and purification, and all other such distinctive outward commandments for the unique separation of Israel from the nations were abolished.

The idea here is that Jesus did away with religion. Listen to a quote that I read last week that puts this into perspective.

*"What He did do was to render ineffective the ceremonial law. It says here, the **"commandments contained in ordinances"**. In other words, what He did was put religion to death. No longer could the Jew say, "Oh, I sacrifice. I go to the Temple. I worship on the Sabbath. I do this. I do that. God loves me more than He loves you." Oh, no. He took all the external stuff and threw it out. Jesus says, "Now there is only one way to God, and that's through Me. You can't work your way up the ladder."*

Jesus takes all who come to Him both Jew and Gentile and makes ONE NEW MAN. In Christ we all lose our identity in that there is neither Jew nor Gentile.

Galatians 3:28

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Notice Ephesians 2:17

We finished with this verse last week and we considered how the apostles preached to these Gentiles and it was the same as Jesus preaching to them. So it is with us also. When we proclaim the Truth, it is the same as Jesus speaking through us for, we are His ambassadors. We are here to make Jesus Christ known to the world.

II. We have Access

Notice Ephesians 2:18

This is a short verse but there is much information found here. Paul tells us here that we BOTH have access and the word "BOTH" refers to Jews and Gentiles. Because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, we who know Him as our Savior can come at anytime into the presence of God. This is a privilege that many do not understand.

In the Old Testament under the Law or the old economy, it was only the high priest that could come into the presence of God and it only happened once a year. It was on the Day of Atonement. The average person could not come into the Holy of Holies. The Law NEVER made it possible for the average person to enter into the presence of God. The writer of Hebrews tells us about what Jesus did.

Hebrews 10:1-14

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.*

³ *But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.*

⁴ *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

⁵ *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*

⁶ *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*

⁷ *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.*

⁸ *Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;*

⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

When Jesus Christ died, He made a way for the average person to come to God.

Mark 15:24-25, 37-38

²⁴ And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

²⁵ And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

³⁷ And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

³⁸ And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

The veil hung between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. It separated the worshippers from God. It was only the high priest who was able to go beyond the veil. But when Jesus died the veil was torn from TOP TO BOTTOM which means it was torn by God. This veil represents sin and when Jesus died, He paid for our sins and so He made a way for us to enter into the presence of God.

Because of what Jesus did we then can apply the words of Hebrews 4 to our lives.

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Now let us get back to Ephesians again.

Notice Ephesians 2:18 again.

I want you to notice that the access here is ONLY through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6

⁶ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Regardless of what many teach there are not many ways to God. There is only one way and that is through Jesus Christ. This Truth is taught throughout the Bible.

We see it in the plans for the ark of Noah's day.

Genesis 6:14-16

¹⁴ *Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.*

¹⁵ *And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.*

¹⁶ *A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.*

The ark was a picture of salvation. Here in verse 16 we see that there was ONLY ONE DOOR. Every animal and every person had to enter through the ONE DOOR. This too is a picture of Jesus Christ.

John 10:7-9

⁷ *Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.*

⁸ *All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.*

⁹ *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

So, we have access through Jesus.

III. We have a new residence.

Notice Ephesians 2:19

Here we see that IN CHRIST, Gentiles are fellow citizens with the saints. When we come to Jesus Christ our citizenship changes.

Philippians 3:20

²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

The word "conversation" here means "citizenship". The idea is that when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are then made citizens of heaven. Let me show you something which we have seen before.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Revelation 21:

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

² *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

³ *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

Let me show you the details of our heavenly home.

Revelation 21:10-11, 16, 23

¹⁰ *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

¹¹ *Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*

¹⁶ *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.*

²³ *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

This is our new home. We are now residents of heaven. Now let me show you another verse that will now be illuminated with all of this.

Philippians 1:20-21

²⁰ According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

*²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and **to die is gain.***

Death is a gain because of what awaits us in eternity.

1 Peter 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Corinthians 2:9

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Conclusion:

If you don't have Jesus Christ, you have NONE of this:

1. No Forgiveness
2. No Peace
3. No Access
4. No Place in Heaven