

HTPC— Fall, 2017 Sunday School
Ephesians: The Beauty of Christ and His Blood-Bought Bride
Week 3: Gentiles and Jews: One (Corporate) New Man in Place of the Two (2:11-3:20)

I. 2:11ff. in the Context of the Book

- A. “Every spiritual blessing in Christ” involves predestinating, Christ-centered purposes of God for all history (1:1-23)
- B. Resurrection and ascension of Christ applied to individual believers (2:1-10 cf. 1:19-22)
- C. Now, the same predestined, Christ-centered purposes of God applied to corporate church (3:7-12!; cf. 2:11– “therefore”).

II. “Before” and “After” of the Gentiles (2:11-22)

A. “Before”

- 1. “At one time;” “at that time” (2:11,12; cf. 2:2-3)
- 2. Description (2:11,12,13,19)

B. “After”

- 1. “But now” (2:13)
- 2. Description (2:13,14,19)

C. Conclusions- what Paul is *and is not* saying about Gentiles and Jews

- 1. Sin (2:1-3; cf. vv. 11,12)
- 2. God’s favor to OT Israel
- 3. OT separation between Gentiles and Israel/Jews
- 4. A NT corporate *shift*
- 5. CHRIST!! (2:13-22)

6. Implications— One people of God: Jews and Gentiles together in Christ. *One holy, catholic and apostolic church*. If Jews and Gentiles have total equality, then it obviously follows that Gentiles and Jews have total equality— no to *any* separating walls in the Lord’s church.

III. “The Mystery of Christ”: Gentiles as Fellow Heirs

A. Another divine-apostolic interruption (3:1...vv.1b-13)

B. The mystery defined

1. A truth previously undisclosed, at last made known (3:3-6; cf. Romans 16:25-27; Ephesians 1:9!)

a. Not a new truth, but historically fulfilled

b. CHRIST!

c. Gentiles

d. Eternally determined and historically revealed (Ephesians 1:9; 3:9-11)

2. Practical implications (3:12-13)

C. Paul’s devotional and autobiographical awe (this will connect with 3:14-21; cf. 3:1)

IV. “For this Reason”— Take Two (3:14-21) and Part Two (cf. 1:15-23)— Theology and Prayer

A. Gentiles and Jews

B. “Inner being,” “hearts,” “faith” (“corporate” category leads to deeply personal prayer)

C. “Together with all the saints” (Paul does not apologize for his high theology— he applies it)

D. Knowing Christ’s love, which is beyond knowledge

E. “Fullness of God”

F. God is adequate to task