

IDENTITY CRISIS
FINDING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST
I AM RECONCILED
Ephesians 2:11-22

LESSON AIM-To help believers recognize and appreciate what reconciliation in Jesus Christ means.

RECONCILIATION

- ✓ Reconciliation involves a change in the relationship between God and man or man and man.
- ✓ It assumes there has been a breakdown in the relationship, but now there has been a change from a state of enmity and fragmentation to one of harmony and fellowship.

WHAT IS A JEW?

A group of people who trace their origin to the ancient Hebrew people of Israel to Abraham.

God made Israel distinct for two reasons:

1. He wanted the world to see and notice them, to realize that they did not live like other men.
2. He wanted them to be so distinct that they would never be influenced by other nations. He gave them strict dietary, clothing, marriage, ceremonial, and other laws that they could not easily fit in with other societies. But Israel perverted them into a source of pride, isolation and self glory.

WHAT IS A GENTILE?

Anyone who is not Hebrew lineage.

THE GENTILES WERE SEPERATED

◆ **THEY WERE SEPERATED SOCIALLY v. 11**

Because Gentiles did not have the physical mark of circumcision to set them apart as the people of God, many Jews had come to consider them to be inferior! Paul carries disdain for such Jewish hatred in his choice words “the so called “Circumcision”.

“Uncircumcision”-A term of derision, defamation, and reproach. 1 Sam 17:26

THEY WERE SEPERATED SPIRITUALLY v. 12

- **Separated from Christ**-The Gentiles had no messianic hope of a Savior. Their history had no purpose, no plan, no destiny except ultimate judgment from God!
- **Separated from the commonwealth of Israel**-God had made His chosen people into a theocracy, a nation of whom He Himself was King and Lord. He gave that nation His special blessing, protection and love. **Duet 32:9-14**

- **Separated from the covenants of promise**-The divine covenant is an agreement in which God binds Himself to carry out His personal promise to His people, to redeem them from sin and bless them forever. **Gen 12:1-3**
- **Separated by having no hope**-Those who don't have Christ have no hope! True hope is only based on a true promise.

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION vv. 14-22

❖ **YOU AND GOD ARE RECONCILED IN CHRIST**

Apart from Christ you are father from God than you feared. In Christ you are nearer to God than you hoped.

“middle wall of separation” v. 14

This alludes to the separation of the Court of the Gentiles from the rest of the Temple. Between that court and the Court of the Israelites was a sign that read, “No Gentile may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure”. Jesus Christ broke every dividing wall! **Matthew 27:51**

TERMS OF RECONCILIATION

- “brought near by the blood of Christ” v. 13
- “peace” vv. 14-15
- “new man” v15
- “access by one Spirit to the Father v. 18

❖ **YOU AND OTHERS ARE RECONCILED IN CHRIST v. 15**

Through Christ we are also reconciled to one another. Paul wrote that “in Christ” there is a “new man.” This “new man” refers to an entirely new group of people with a new identity who make up a cultural grouping among people from every culture. This means when we become Christians, we may retain our cultural affinity, but its no longer our primary identity as Christians in Christ.