

God's Call to Preserve Unity

Galatians/Ephesians Series: Lesson 10 -- Sun, April 29, '07

Introduction: Temple Warning & Structure

Question: Before Christ, Why did Jews believe that they alone were *brought near* to God and Gentiles were *far off* from God?

Read: Ephesians 2:11-3:13

According to Ephesians 2:11-22, Jews were:

1. _____: chosen by God to be His own covenant people, the nation of Israel (2:11)
2. **People of the _____:** (2:12)
 - He would be their _____
 - He would _____ them
 - He gave them the promised _____
 - The _____ would come through their line

According to Ephesians 2:11-22, Jews had:

3. **Future _____:** Messiah would rule on the throne of David as their king forever (2:12)
4. _____ **with God** (2:12): God placed His glory in the Sanctuary/Temple among the Jews

According to Ephesians 2:11-22, to Jews God revealed:

5. **God's _____** (2:13):
 - Revealed God's _____
 - Established God's _____ law (10 Commandments)
 - Established a _____ & sacrificial system
 - All Ceremonial, purification, civil and dietary _____

But Because of Christ:

1. _____ has been made between Jew & Gentile as Christ _____ the actual & spiritual *barrier of the dividing wall* (2:14-16)
2. _____ between God and man — because of sin and the law — has been abolished (2:15)
3. Gentiles, like the Jews, have been **brought** _____ to God via Christ (2:17-18)

4. Both Jew and Gentiles now have _____ to the Father through the Spirit (2:18)
5. Gentiles are now _____ of God's kingdom and members of God's family; they are no longer **strangers** and aliens (2:19)
6. Since Gentiles are now members of the body of Christ, His church, through the gospel they are also _____ to the promises God gave to Israel (3:6)

How were these truths to impact their thoughts & lives?

Read: Ephesians 4:1-6

Command: Walk in a manner _____ of your calling.

Question: Walk in WHAT manner? HOW do we do it & WHY?

1. **HOW should we Walk?** With a Worthy attitude & behavior about myself and others
Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love
 - Humility =
 - Meekness =
 - Patience =
 - forbearance =
2. **In WHAT manner should we walk?** Worthy objective toward other believers: *Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*
 - **Diligent** =
 - **Preserve** =
 - **Unity** =
 - **Bond** =
 - **Peace** =

Point: I can only preserve the unity of the body of Christ if I have a proper biblical perspective:

- See myself (my church) with proper lowliness
- Treat other believers with gentleness and patience (2:20)
- "All Saints in Ephesus" includes every believer (1:2)

WHY are we to preserve the unity of the Spirit?

Ephesians 4:4-6 says:

There is **one body** and **one Spirit**— just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called— **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all.

Jesus Prayed to His Father the night before His death:

“I pray ... for those who will believe in me ... that all of them may be **one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, **that they may be one as we are one**: I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:20-23)

Jesus also said:

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another.**” (John 13:35)

- Is Jesus simply referring to how you love your best friends?
- Is Jesus simply referring to how you love only believers in your church or denomination?

Personal Challenge:

1. How are **YOU & YOUR CHURCH** going to diligently preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace starting today ... with an attitude of humility, gentleness, patience & forbearance toward others in love?
2. What spiritual *warning signs* and *barriers* that God has already broken down ... do you need to also change?