

## Who Am I Part 9

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Jeff Wall

Eph 2:11:12 (NIV) Those who are Gentiles

*"Therefore remember that formerly you who were **Gentiles** by birth [circle "Gentiles"] and called uncircumcised by those who call themselves the circumcision of the body by the hands of men. Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel, foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope, without God in the world."*

The Gentiles: The uncircumcised -Separate from Christ-Excluded from citizenship-  
Foreigners in the covenants-Without Hope-Without God in the world

Eph. 2:13 (NIV) **"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ."**

**2 groups of people... both need Jesus!**

**Physical Circumcision had impacted on 3 levels: Physical- Psychological- Spiritual**  
**Spiritual Circumcision:**

- Physical circumcision is now meaningless...

*"They must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant."*

*Gen.17:13*

- Psychological reason for it.
- Spiritual reason for it. The parents were making the commitment saying, "This child is a Jewish child." Just like you do in a baby dedication.

Ray Steadman: "Circumcision was God's way of indicating what the Jews were to think about themselves, their self image. How people act sexually is a dead giveaway of how they see themselves before God, their true identity."

**Physical circumcision is not the point.**

- The tabernacle and Temple weren't the point. The point was that God was going to dwell in us someday.

*"The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love Him with all your heart and all your soul, and live."* Deut. 30:6 (NIV)

Galatians 5:6 *"In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value."*

Colossians 2:11 tells us what this physical thing was pointing to in a spiritual reality in our lives.

*"In Him you also were circumcised [spiritually. How?] in the putting off of your sinful nature.*

*Not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with a circumcision that's done by Christ."*

**Spiritual circumcision is God's putting off of our Sinful Nature**

**Here's how God's peace comes into our fractured relationships.**

Eph 2: 14 says, *"For He Himself is our peace."* Verse 15 *"He made one new man out of the two thus making peace."* Verse. 17 *"He came and He preached peace."*

families... believers. The war is even sometimes fought within ourselves.

**Jesus IS peace**

**The ONLY source of peace:** People say if only people would understand 'this' philosophy or if we could educate people better or if only they had enough money... enough food in their stomach.

**The SOUL & sole source of peace.** promised His disciples, *"Peace, I leave with you. My peace I give to you."* He challenged us as His disciples to be peacemakers. *"Blessed are the peacemakers."* He challenged us to be peacemakers, people who understand that Jesus Christ is the sole source of peace in our lives.

## Jesus MADE peace

The place where peace was “manufactured” CROSS!!

- He made the two into one: the church
  - He destroyed the barrier/put to death their hostility/abolished the law
- Rom. 10:12-13

Eph 2:18-19

## Jesus PREACHED peace.

The ultimate expression of this peace: equal access !

Everybody stands on even ground when it comes to access to God. Nobody has an "in" with God in this world.... or everybody has an in with God through Jesus Christ. Every one of us stand on equal ground before God.

v. 18 *"Through Him we both have equal access to the Father by one Spirit."*

### **As you look at all of this stuff about peace, who do you need to make peace with?**

1. Start at the cross. Recognize that you both need to be forgiven.
2. Stop judging. The law is dead. Jesus Christ made the decision on the cross not to judge us. Aren't you glad He did?
3. Involve yourself with God's church and God's purposes. If you really want to be unified with somebody do that together. A couple who's really struggling and fighting, involve yourself in God's purposes together. What a great way to be unified.

Eph 2:20-22

### **The church meets my need for security**

We are Member's of God's Household "I am a part of God's family."

### **The church meets my need for relationships.**

We are God's Building "I am a part of God's eternal purpose."

### **The church meets my need for significance.**

1. Built on the Foundation of Apostles and Prophets
2. Jesus as the Cornerstone

The significance of a cornerstone:

- All the measurements of the building are taken from the cornerstone
- All the weight of the building rests upon the cornerstone.
- Everything in the building ties together at the cornerstone.

*"You also are like living stones, so let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple – to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ." 1 Pet. 2:5 (NCV)*