

Ephesians 2: 11-22

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Read the entire second chapter of Ephesians paying close attention to verses 11-22. Paul is giving instructions for building the church.

1. Read verse 12 and find the five problems people faced prior to the coming of Christ.

>1.

>2.

>3.

>4.

>5.

2. How did Jesus change all of this? (vs. 13)

In Biblical times the Jews and Gentiles were alienated and separate. They had different objects of worship; different religious rites; different views and feelings. The Jewish people regarded the Gentiles with hatred. And the Gentiles regarded the Jews with scorn. Now, because of Jesus, they are at peace. They worship the same God. They have the same Savior. They depend on the same atonement. They have the same hope. They look forward to the same heaven. They belong to the same redeemed family.

3. Imagine that you are one of the Gentiles Paul is writing to, what would it would mean to you to know that you are now:

>A fellow citizen (vs. 19)

>A member of the household of God (vs. 19)

>Being the temple of the Lord (vs. 21)

4. Before God could build his church with both Jewish and Gentile believers, what had to first be torn down? (vs. 14)

5. What new foundation is the church built on and what is the cornerstone? (vs. 20)
6. How is this building project going to be held together? (vs. 21-22)
7. Do you see yourself as being a part of this building project and process? If yes, how? If no, why not and how can you become a part of it?

In our world there are dividing walls of hostility between nations, between political parties, between denominations, and between individuals. Jesus did not come just to break down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles. He came to break down that dividing wall of hostility for all who believe in him. As Christians we have no cause for allowing a wall of hostility to continue to exist in our lives while we claim that Christ is our peace. Jesus came on a mission of reconciliation. He came to make us no longer objects of wrath to God, but recipients of his blessing. He came to reconcile people to each other, to restore broken relationships, and to end the separateness we inherited with the sinful nature.

8. What walls of hostility still seem to cause a great deal of pain for our country and our world?
9. Are there any walls of hostility that affect your personal life?
10. How could Christ help you bridge any personal walls of hostility that you may be experiencing between you and another person right now?
11. Paul writes, “For he himself is our peace” Do you feel the peace of Christ in your life on a regular basis?
12. The word for “joined together” in verse 21 is a Greek construction term that describes the painstaking process of grinding, smoothing, and fitting rough stones together. This term can also include the cutting of joints, drilling of holes, the use of dowels of molten lead, and the final testing for structural soundness. How does that process compare to what we go through in the process of becoming a Christian community?