

Theme: Sin alienated us from God and one another, but Christ's blood has purchased our unity with God and one another.

## I. Intro - Mosque In Casablanca

- A. On a trip to Niger stopped in Casablanca, Morocco
- B. Mosque in Casablanca - 7th largest in the world
- C. Holds 105,000 for prayer - 25,000 inside, 80,000 in court
- D. But they would not let us inside during prayers!
- E. We were "unclean" and "unworthy"
- F. Reminds me of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem
- G. It had visible structures to remind us of how we were alienated from God and from one another

## II. Alienated - From God and One Another

- A. We were alienated from God, His people, His covenants  
Therefore **remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh**, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—  
<sup>12</sup> **remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:11–12
  - 1. Speaking primarily to the Gentiles in the church
  - 2. We were separate from Christ - alienated from God
  - 3. We were excluded from citizenship in His people
  - 4. We were foreigners to the covenants
  - 5. The summary - without God and without hope

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world**. Ephesians 2:11–12

- 6. This was true of all of us - aliens from God & hope
- B. We were alienated from others - hostile to each other  
Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, **called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision**, which is made in the flesh by hands...  
<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, **who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility**<sup>15</sup> by **abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances**, that he might create in himself **one new man in place of the two, so making peace**, Ephesians 2:11, 14–15
  - 1. "Uncircumcision" - initial note of hostility
  - 2. The dividing wall of hostility
  - 3. Based on ceremonial law (ordinances)
  - 4. All of this alludes to the dividing wall in the Temple
    - a. Massive Jerusalem Temple - 80 years to build
    - b. Huge outer court area - 3/4 of a mile perimeter
    - c. Four a half foot wall surrounded inner courts
    - d. Thirteen huge stone plaques
    - e. "No foreigner is to enter within the forecourt and the balustrade around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his subsequent death."

f. Paul imprisoned because they thought he had violated this law (See Acts 21:28-29)

g. Talk about dividing wall of hostility!

5. This speaks specifically of Jew and Gentile

6. But all humans are alienated from one another since the fall

7. We segregate by race, status, wealth, etc.

8. Sadly this still happens in God's Temple, the Church! We segregate, divide, and act alienated from one another

### III. Christ Restores Unity By His Blood

A. Jesus is the One Who restores unity with God

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ...**<sup>16</sup> and might **reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby killing the hostility.<sup>17</sup> And he came and **preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near**. Ephesians 2:13, 16–17

1. We were far from God but Christ brought us near by His blood - united to God by blood

2. Christ has reconciled us to God on the cross

3. Reconciliation, hostility, peace are relational terms

4. Jesus has restored unity with God

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:18

B. Jesus restores unity between humans

For he himself is our **peace**, who has **made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility**<sup>15</sup> by abolishing **the law of commandments expressed in ordinances**, that he might create in himself **one new man in place of the two, so making peace**, Ephesians 2:14–15

1. Peace (2x), made us both one - unity restored

2. Broken down dividing wall of hostility between people

3. Commandments, ordinances - Ceremonial law that separated Jew and Gentile in view

4. One new man in place of the two - united humanity

5. Peace, hostility, dividing wall are relational terms

6. Jesus has restored our unity with one another

7. This is the basis for the church's existence

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints and **members of the household of God**,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being **joined together**, grows into a **holy temple in the Lord**.<sup>22</sup> In him you also are **being built together into a dwelling place for God** by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22

a. Fellow citizens, members of God's house, Temple

b. One nation, one family, one Temple!

c. Joined together, built together - UNITY!!

## IV. Applying the Word

### A. Do I see the alienation brought by sin?

1. A sense of alienation from God was not a figment of our imagination!
2. Sin actually separated us from God and made us hostile to Him and His ways
3. This alienation is the root of all other alienation
4. Sin has also alienated us from one another
5. We are personally alienated, and then we are tempted to alienate by groups
6. This alienation from God and one another brought about the death of Christ
7. This is why we gather to reflect on Good Friday

### B. Do I see the unity brought about by Christ's blood?

1. His atoning death has restored us to God!
2. We no longer need to hide from God - we have open access to our Father!
3. This is the greatest gift imaginable - all paid for by Christ's atoning death!
4. The fruit of this is also unity with other's, especially believers
5. Because we are accepted by God, because our debt for sin has been paid in full, we can walk with one another in humility and unity
6. This unity with God and one another is not just potential - it is real unity secured by Christ's blood

7. We must never let the enemy steal what has been paid for by Christ and given to us as our blood-bought inheritance!
8. For a Christian, alienation with God and fellow believers can only be skin deep, while unity with God and one another runs in the blood and flows from our marrow.
9. Thanks be to God for the fact that we are united by blood!

### United By Blood

Ephesians 2:11-22  
April 19, 2019 (Good Friday)  
Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: Lent; Atonement; Church; Salvation and deliverance; Unity

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11–22