

5. Suggest ways that you can work together for “complete unity” in Christ, without ignoring your differences with other believers.

6. READ Ephesians 2:20. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone of the church?

7. READ 1 Corinthians 3:10-11. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church?

8. How can Jesus Christ be both the foundation and cornerstone?

9. How can everything in a church be built upon, aligned with, and measured from the cornerstone Jesus Christ? Suggest ways.

# Reconciled to God and Each Other

Ephesians 2:11-22

October 15, 2017

## 1. Reconciled to God (11-13)

You were excluded by **ethnicity**

- Without the Messiah
- Without citizenship in Israel, God’s **people**
- Without the **blessing** (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:18)
- Without **hope** (1 Thes. 4:13)
- Without God

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*

## 2. Reconciled to each other (14-18)

Christ is our peace

Christ has made the two one

Christ demolished the dividing **wall** of hostility

Christ nullified the written code, commandments, regs

Christ created one **new** Person out of the two

Christ made peace

Christ reconciled both to God through the **cross**

Christ put both together in one **Body** = the Church

Christ **killed** the hostility that was between them

Christ preached peace

*For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

### 3. Some assembly required (19-22)

Consequently, so then . . .

We are not yet what we shall be  
But by the grace of God  
We are no longer what we once were

No longer foreigners and aliens (outsiders)

*Fellow citizens* responsibilities, privileges, **rights**

*With the saints* NIV “God’s people” **belonging**

*Members of God’s household* kinfolk, **family**

*Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets  
With Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone*



*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42).*

*And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*

#### APPLICATION

1. Are you reconciled to God? Do you understand the meaning of the cross for your salvation?
2. Are you reconciled to other people who are reconciled to God by Christ’s sacrifice—no matter what is their political, financial, racial, or social standing?
3. Are you loving others in this local church fellowship as Christ builds us together in order to display His glory to the world?

## *Life Group Homework*

What insight, observation, or principle did you find eye-opening, troubling, or helpful from this Sunday’s sermon?

1. Do we still have Gentiles vs. Jewish ethnic conflicts in the church today? Name some other racial or ethnic conflicts.
2. READ Ephesians 2:14-18. What does Paul say the Gentiles and Jews are supposed to do about their hostility?

What does God in Christ do about their hostility?

3. If God in Christ has removed/demolished/destroyed the “dividing wall of hostility” then why did problems persist?

4. READ John 17:23. What two conclusions will the world draw when they see “complete unity” among Christ’s followers?