

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –  
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE  
PROGRAM 23 (#912203)  
WEEK 5 (912345)  
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –  
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

**TITLE: Program 23 – Believing Jews And Gentiles, We’re That Eternal Entity**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

Do you realize that until Jesus Christ came and died on that cross that there were only two categories of people in all the world? There were Jews and there were Gentiles. And do you realize, in fact you probably do if you’ve studied history, that these were at odds with one another? It’s like the Gentiles hated the Jews and the Jews looked down at the Gentiles as unclean. But when Jesus came all that changed.

**PART ONE**

When Jesus comes into our life He literally changes everything. But I think so many times Beloved, we do not realize that when Jesus came into the world, when He died, when He was buried, when He was resurrected He literally changed everything. He changed the status of mankind. And this is

what we’re going to look at as we study the end of Ephesians chapter 2 today. It’s an incredible incredible passage. These are vital vital truths. These are truths that have come straight from heaven for you and me so that you and I can open this book called the Bible and discover truth for ourselves. And that’s what we’re about to do today. Well let’s go to Ephesians chapter 2. And in Ephesians chapter 2 we now come to this passage where it’s talking about how God took the Gentiles who formerly were far off and how He brought them near, and what He accomplished. (Ephesians 2:13) So let’s read it. In Ephesians chapter 2 it says in verse 13, and remember he’s speaking to those at Ephesus. Those at Ephesus are Gentiles. And a Gentile is anybody that’s not a Jew. So there are basically two categories of people in the world, Jews and Gentiles until Jesus Christ comes. And we’re going to see what He changes. It says, **“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”** (Ephesians 2:13) You were far off from God, but now you have been brought near to God by the blood of Jesus Christ. And he’s going to tell you how you as Gentiles were brought near. He says, **“For He Himself...,”** Jesus, **“...is our peace, who made both groups into one....”** Now those both groups are Jews and Gentiles. And so what God did through Jesus is He took Jews and He took Gentiles and He made them into one. You say, do you mean that every Jew and every Gentile has been made into one? Oh no. Remember, it’s only through the blood of Christ and many people despise the blood of Christ. Many people demean the name of Jesus Christ. I mean you hear Him used as a swear word, but you don’t hear Him being used in reference to “as God in the flesh” or as the “Son of God”. And so and it’s all right in society if you use Him as a swear word, but it is not all right in our society if you proclaim who He is, people don’t want to talk about it. They don’t know what they’re missing. And this is what they’re missing. It says, **“For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups...,”** Jew and Gentile now, **“...into one and broke down the**

**barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity....”**

**(Ephesians 2:14-15a)** Enmity means that there is an enemy relationship, that there is not a oneness, but there is a separation. There is a division. And it says, “...[breaking down] **the enmity, ....**” **“By abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in**

**ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace....” (2:14-15)** So what is he saying? He’s saying that He is going to bring peace to Jew and Gentile and He’s going to take Jew and Gentile and He’s going to make Jew and Gentile, and look at this, **“...the two into one new man....” (2:15d)** Do you realize what he’s saying there? He’s saying that now there’s going to be a third entity in this world. There are going to be Jews. There are going to be Gentiles. But those Jews and Gentiles who come near to God through the blood of Jesus Christ are going to form another entity, another group, another classification of mankind. And that is a one new man. I mean it’s absolutely incredible. So now, if we were to take the whole world and line them up we would divide them according to Jew. We would divide them according to Gentile or we would have one new man over here. And that one new man would be Jews and Gentiles that have come to God through the blood of Jesus Christ and have become one new man. Watch what he goes on to say in Ephesians chapter 2. It says, **“... and [that He] might reconcile them both....”**

**(Ephesians 2:16a)** Reconcile means you’re at enmity. You’re enemies. You’ve got your back against the each other. And so reconcile means you’re going to turn around and you’re going to embrace one another. And when you embrace one another through Jesus Christ what happens is then you are reconciled **“...them both in one body....” (2:16b)** That one body is the same as the one new man. **“...In one body to God...,”** now watch, **“...through the cross....” (2:16b)** I’m going to have you draw all this on our famous piece of paper that we keep in front of us and our pen. And I’m going to have you draw all of this so that you can see it visually in your

mind’s eye, so that you can go through the very action of drawing it because then doing that, the actual doing helps you to learn and it helps you to remember. And we’re such a visual society that it really helps. So it says, that He **“...might reconcile them....”** Them whom? Them Jews and them Gentiles who believe in Jesus Christ, who come to God through the blood of Jesus Christ. **“...In one body to God through the cross, ...having put to death the enmity.” (2:16)** Now this is an incredible statement and I’m going to explain it more later, but I want to keep reading. **“And He came...,”** Jesus came, **“...and [He preached peace....]”** **“[He] preached peace to you who were far away...,”** to you Gentiles, **“...and peace to those who were near.” (2:17)** Those who were near were the Jews because remember salvation was of the Jews. Remember the promises, the covenants of promise belonged to the Jews, the laws, the commandments, everything belonged to the Jews. The promise of the Messiah, the Messiah would be a Jew. So it was all through the Jews, all through the nation of Israel that God would bless the world. So he says, so **“...He came and [He] preached peace to you...,”** you Gentiles, **“...who were far away, and peace to those who were near,”** you Jews. **“For through Him...,”** through Jesus, **“...we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.” (2:17-18)** In other words here are Jews and here are Gentiles, but because of the Spirit of God. Now **“...we...have access [through] one Spirit to the Father.” (2:18b)** Now who is that that has access through one Spirit to the Father? It is Jew and Gentile in one body. It is Jew and Gentile one new man. Now watch what he goes on to say. It’s so neat. **“So then...,”** conclusion, **“so then you are...,” (2:19a)** and reason with me. This is what Paul does. He wants you to think and God wants you to think. God wants you to know these truths. So many times as Christians all we want to do is we just want to know how to get out of our problems or how to live through them how to be healthy how to be wealthy how to be successful how to drive the right car how to have the right house. I mean it’s an American kind of theology and we just

want to know what’s in it for “moi.” What is in it for me? But that’s not what it’s all about. God wants us to know truth. And this Bible is the embodiment of truth. And so God wants us to know this. God wants us to know doctrine because it’s doctrine that determines our duty. It’s doctrine, it’s what our teaching is what we believe that determines our duty, the way we behave. And this doctrine ought to change your attitude toward the Jews if you’ve had a bad attitude. If you’ve had a typical worldly attitude you don’t appreciate Israel and you should appreciate Israel because it’s God’s chosen nation. Now we know that the Muslims are told that Israel is the enemy. But Israel is not the enemy. And if the Muslims only understood this because it’s through Israel that God brings to the whole world, now listen carefully, Jew and Gentile, the possibility of being saved, the possibility of having access to God the Father. So salvation is of the Jews. Jesus is a Jew. You trace His genealogy and it goes from Abraham, it goes to Isaac. It goes to Jacob and Jacob’s name was changed to Israel. It goes through the tribe of Judah and it goes through the house of David. That is Jesus. And what God wants us to see is now that if you’re a Muslim, if you’re a Hindu, if you’re a Buddhist, if you’re a church goer, if you are a Jew there is only one way to God and when you go that one way to God which is through the cross of Jesus Christ, through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then you, [no matter whether you are Jew or Gentile you have access to God through the Spirit of God.] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 2:11-19) You now become one new man. And listen to this, so then, **“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens...,”** you’re no longer outside, **“...but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and [you] are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone.”** (Ephesians 2:19-20) You know it’s the cornerstone that’s the most important stone in the building. It’s the cornerstone that holds the building together. The cornerstone is laid and it puts those two walls together. It’s even more important than the foundation.

Jesus is the cornerstone. We’ll look at it when we come back in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back, Beloved. It is such a privilege to be your teacher and I thank you so much, so much for wanting to know God’s Word. And I want to remind you if you’ve just discovered this program that we have a website and it’s [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com), [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and you want to go there because we have a free gift for you. We have a study guide that you can download. And if you’ve downloaded the study guide and you’re studying along with me, which is really my goal and my passion and my purpose in being here is to help you discover truth for yourself, you’ve already studied this. You’ve already looked at these words. You’ve already in a sense got the picture, but we’re putting it all together and we’re sharing what we have. Well let’s look again at verse 14 where it says **“For He Himself...,”** speaking of Jesus, **“...is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.” (Ephesians 2:14)** Now what does it mean that He made both groups into one? Well you know already I assume the both groups are the Jews and the Gentiles, the only two categories of people in the world until Jesus Christ came on the scene. And after Jesus came and He died and He was raised from the dead then what happens is we have a whole new entity. We have a whole new class of mankind. And He did this and this is what I want you to see, He did this by breaking down the dividing wall. Now when he’s saying that the people in those days would certainly understand, because they knew that there was a temple in Israel. If they knew anything about Israel they would know hey, that you could go up to the temple, but there was a wall there. There was a wall that had a court of the Gentiles and no Gentile was allowed to go beyond that wall. And the Jews were very very zealous for that. Now let me

show you that. I want you to go to Acts chapter 21, verse 28, because in Acts chapter 21 Paul, who is a Jew, who was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, Paul gets into trouble and I mean it is big trouble. And he goes to the temple area. He’s going, he’s taken a vow. He’s shaved his head. He’s taking a gift of money to help the saints that are in Jerusalem because they’ve been having a hard time. And when he comes to the temple what happens is there is a ruckus. And this is what happens in verse 27. **“When the seven days were almost over, the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him...,”** Paul, **“...in the temple, began to stir up all the crowd and laid hands on him.”** (Acts 21:27) I mean they grabbed that little man. We know from tradition that Paul was small, that Paul had bad eyes and they said he had bowed legs. In other words he was not a real handsome dynamic man. He was dynamic but he wasn’t handsomely dynamic that made him look that way. And they **“...began to stir up...the crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, ‘Men of Israel, come to our aid!’....”** (21:27b-28a) This is what was happening. I mean they were in the temple. All of a sudden they latch on to Paul and they’re yelling, **“...Men of Israel, [men of Israel, come up], come to our aid!....”** Why? Because this is what they assumed had happened. It says **“...This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and [against] the Law and [against] this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple, and has defiled this holy place.”** (Acts 21:28) It says **“For they had previously seen Trophimus...,”** now listen, **“...the Ephesian in the city with him....”** (Acts 21:29a) But Trophimus was not a Jew. Trophimus was a Gentile. And so they assumed that Paul who was preaching against the Law they thought and against this temple that Paul flagrantly had brought in this unclean Gentile into this holy place. He had taken him beyond, they thought, the barrier of the dividing wall, beyond the court of the Gentiles and had taken him into the temple proper. And so, **“...they [had] supposed that Paul had brought them into the temple. Then all the city was provoked, and the people rushed**

together, and taking hold of Paul they dragged him out of the temple....” (21:29b-30a) It’s like they got him by the back of his robe and the poor man can’t even walk and they’re just dragging this marvelous man of God right out of the temple. Can you imagine the humiliation? Can you imagine the frustration? Here is a man [who has counted all things as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ for whom he has suffered the loss of all things and does count them but dung, does count them but refuse,] (Paraphrased, Philippians 3:7-8) that he might know God and the power of His resurrection. And here he is taking a vow, helping the Jews, helping the Christians in Jerusalem and now this is the way that he is being treated. And it says and “...they dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut.” (Acts 21:30b) There was a dividing wall. Well let’s go back to Ephesians and see what he is saying happened. All right so Jesus, “...Himself is our peace who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall....” (Ephesians 2:14) You know what is now. “By abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two...,” Jew and Gentile, “...into one new man...,” (2:15) that third entity now of mankind on the face of this earth. The NIV puts it in a very interesting way and I love it. It says “...His purpose was to create in Himself one new man....” (Ephesians 2:15b, NIV) So when Jesus Christ died on the cross, what He did was He abolished the enmity that was between the Jew and Gentile. You say what was the enmity? Well hang on. The enmity was the Law. The enmity was what separated them. The enmity was what kept them from coming to God through righteousness that is achieved by the Law. First of all the Gentiles didn’t know about it. Second of all, the Gentiles were not allowed to have their sacrifices on the altar. They were not allowed to go into the temple. There was a barrier a dividing wall so the Law kept them out, shut them out. The Jews came through the instructions of the Law, but the Law could not



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take away their sin. And so what we’re going to see in our next program is we’re going to see the dynamic truth of all of this and what it means to you and me Beloved so that you and I can know and understand that we are a third category of mankind. And that is we are no longer at enmity with the Jews and the Jews are no longer at enmity with us if we have come to know Jesus Christ. Because what Jesus has done is He has taken Jew and Gentile through the blood of Christ and made them into one new man. But what Beloved, is going to happen to you and to me who are part of the one new man? We’re going to live forever. We’re that new entity that eternal entity that’s going to live in the presence of God because we’re part of God’s household. Isn’t that awesome! Preach it. Teach it. Tell it. Proclaim it. Do not be ashamed. It’s truth.