

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED
A STUDY OF EPHESIANS
#5: GOD'S PLAN FOR PEACE
EPHESIANS 2:11-22
JIM HINTON**



I. THE PROBLEMS OF PREJUDICE AND DIVISION

Racism is not a skin problem – it is a sin problem
Unknown

II. HOW THE GOSPEL OVERCOMES PREJUDICES

1. Jesus came to save all people

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.

John 3:16 (CEV)

2. Jesus came to create an entirely new people

For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (NLT)

3. Jesus came to reach the unreachable

- **The Samaritans (Acts 8:12-17)**
- **The Ethiopian treasurer (Acts 8:26-40)**
- **The conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:17-22)**

We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free men or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—we are Christians; we are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (TLB)

II. GOD'S PLAN FOR PEACE—EPHESIANS 2:11-22

1. What I was outside of Christ—Alienated (v.11-12)

Without a...

- **Savior**
- **Citizenship**
- **Promise**

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

- **Hope**

I will try to have a good time while I’m young, because I will lie under the earth for a long time – voiceless as a stone, and I shall leave the sunlight that I loved...then I shall see it no more. Have a good time, my soul, while young; soon others will take my place, and I shall be black earth in death. No mortal is happy under the sun.

Theognis, Greek Poet

2. What I am inside Christ—Reconciled (v.13-18)

Jesus is our peace by...

- **Making us one**
- **Removing the barriers**
- **Creating a new “third race”**

In this new life one’s nationality or race or education or social position is unimportant; such things mean nothing. Whether a person has Christ is what matters, and he is equally available to all.

Colossians 3:11 (TLB)

3. What I am inside Christ’s church—Unified (v.19-22)

In the church I have a new...

- **Kingdom**
- **Family**
- **Temple**

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

He who does not have the church as his mother, does not have God as his father

Augustine of Hippo