

Reconciled By The Blood

Identity -vs- Wedentity

Ephesians 2:11-22

“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (that done in the body by the hands of men).

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.” Eph 2:11:12 (NIV)

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.” Eph. 2:13 (NIV)

2 groups of people... both need Jesus!

Those who are near

The Jews: The circumcision

Those who are far away

The Gentiles: The uncircumcised

*Separate from Christ

*Excluded from citizenship

*Foreigners in the covenants

*Without Hope

*Without God in the world

“... they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.” Gen. 17:13 (NIV)

“The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.” Deut. 30:6 (NIV)

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Gal. 5:6 (NIV)

“In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ.” Col. 2:11 (NIV)

Physical Circumcision: a protection from disease

Psychologically: a self-image of uniqueness

Spiritual Circumcision

*Physical circumcision is now meaningless

*Spiritual circumcision is God's putting off of our

sinful nature

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” Eph. 2:14 (NIV)

“by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace.” Eph. 2:15 (NIV)

“and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.” Eph. 2:16 (NIV)

“He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.” Eph. 2:17 (NIV)

“Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect: they all have the same Lord who generously gives His riches to all those who ask him for them. Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Rom. 10:12-13 (TLB)

“For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.” Eph. 2:18 (NIV)

Jesus is peace

*The sole source of peace

*The soul source of peace

Jesus is our peace

The place where peace was “manufactured” at the cross but the blood of Jesus

He made the two into one: the church

He destroyed the barrier/put to death their hostility/abolished the law

He reconciled both to God.

The ultimate expression of this peace: equal access!

Do you see the power of the trinity in verse 18? Through the

Jesus we both have access in One Spirit to the

Father.

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.”

Eph. 2:19 (NIV)

“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.” Eph. 2:20 (NIV)

“In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.” Eph. 2:21 (NIV)

“And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.” Eph. 2:22 (NIV)

“You also are like living stones, so let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple – to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. 2:5 (NCV)