

# Reconciled in Christ Alone

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, January 3, 2021; Steve Thiel

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As believers, it's essential to remember from where it is that we have come. Because we were once separated from Christ, strangers to God, and alienated from the people of God. But now, through the blood of the cross, we have been reconciled to God and welcomed into His family!

## **I. What We Once Were – Read Ephesians 2:11-12**

- A. Paul begins this section in verse 11 with the word, “Therefore”. The obvious question is what is the “therefore” there for? How would you summarize the book of Ephesians up to this point? And what do you think is the most recent thought that Paul is working off of in verse 11?
- B. Obviously, there was division between the Jews and the Gentiles. As you look at verse 11, why do you think “circumcision” was such a big deal between these two groups of people? How does verse 12 help you answer that question?
- C. In verse 13, Paul is going to transition to this present time when he says, “But now in Christ Jesus.” Before we move on, why do you think it’s helpful to remember where it is that you’ve come from? How would you describe your “old life” before coming to faith in Jesus?

## **II. What Christ Has Done – Read Ephesians 2:13-18**

- A. Paul says in verse 14 that, “Jesus Himself is our peace.” In what ways is Jesus our peace? As you think about the person of Christ and the work of Christ, how are verses 13-16 helpful?
- B. As you look at verses 15-16, what are the two specific things that Paul highlights that Christ has accomplished through His death on the cross? How would you summarize those two ideas?
- C. What do you think our reconciliation to God and our reconciliation to one another should look like on a daily basis? As you think about New Year’s resolutions, what are some things you would like to be resolved to do to grow your relationship with God and with others in the church?

## **III. What We Have Become – Read Ephesians 2:19-22**

- A. What do you think it looks like to live as a citizen of the Kingdom of God? If you had to identify one area in which you’re living like a citizen in the kingdom of man, what would it be?
- B. In verse 19, Paul says we’re members of God’s household, which is glorious news! But that means we have obligations to love our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. List three practical things that you could do on a weekly basis in order to better love your church family here at Proclamation.
- C. Paul also says that we’re stones in God’s temple. The temple was a holy place where man met with God. How would you like to specifically grow in holiness this coming year?