

Easy As 1-2-3



Ephesians 2:11-22¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

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Overall Understanding

Ephesians 2:11-22²

It's easy to miss this marvellous accomplishment of the cross if we don't understand the divide between Jews and Gentiles that existed before and after the cross.

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Here is another before and after view: Before, we (the Gentiles) were: without Christ, aliens from Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise. We had no hope. We were without God.

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¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Now we have been brought near. We have Christ. We are not aliens. We are not separated from God's promises. We have hope. We have God. We are no longer FAR OFF. We have been brought near by His blood,

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace,

Yes, we have peace in God, but this is something we shouldn't miss. The Gentiles have peace with God and the Jews!

who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Yes, we are made one with God, but here it means we have been made one with the Jews.

¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

How did He make us one? Jesus abolished what separated us, the law of commandments. He did this to create in Him one new man from the two. This is the peace he brought. Both Jew and Gentile are reconciled to God through the cross.

¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

He preached not only to the Jew who was near God through the commandments, but to the Gentile who was far off from them. Both groups now have the same access to God by the Holy Spirit. Both are saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

What a glorious accomplishment of the cross. The Gentiles are no longer strangers or foreigners, but fellow citizens with the Jews through the law? No! It is through grace through faith in Jesus!

Coming Up in Chapter 3

In the next section of Ephesians, Paul continues to expand on this accomplishment of the cross.