

- Read Ephesians 2:11-22. What stands out to you and why? Was anything about this passage cleared up for you or brought to light through the preaching?
- Why is it important for us to remember who we used to be?
- Who is a “Gentile”? What were they excluded from?
- Read verses 13-18. What did Jesus accomplish for Gentiles and Jews alike?
- Jesus may have torn down the barriers of sin and shame and even that old barrier between Jews and non-Jews BUT where are you putting up new barriers between you and another believer? Jealousy, unforgiveness, judging, talking behind their back are all barriers we can put up. How can we begin to address these barriers in our own lives?
Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 and 3:8-11.
- Why is so important we see, believe and celebrate the truths found in Ephesians 2:19-22?
- It was mentioned that knowing what we’ve become (who we are) is one of the most important truths for a new believer to grasp. Why do you think that is?
- Could you walk someone through Scripture and help them see their new identity in Christ Jesus? Where else does Scripture highlight these truths?
- What (or who) is the difference between Ephesians 2:1-2 and 19-22?

1. A picture of what you used to be (Ephesians 2:11-12)

- Separated from Christ (Messiah = Anointed King = Jesus)
- Excluded from citizenship in Israel – they didn’t belong
- Foreigners to the covenants of the promise – strangers / alienated
- Without hope and without God in the world

2. Jesus brought peace (Ephesians 2:13-18)

There's no barrier too big for God to overcome in Christ Jesus. **Colossians 1:21-23**

- Jesus may have torn down the barriers of sin and shame and that old barrier between Jews and non-Jews BUT are you putting up new barriers?
- Are you holding onto unforgiveness as your right? Are you treating it like a weapon?
- Have you been betrayed, lied to, rejected, taken advantage of, laughed at, made fun of, misunderstood?
- Some of you might feel trapped, scared. *"What if they hurt me again? What if they don't forgive me?"*
1 Peter 3:8-11

God wants you to be a visible model / demonstration of the gospel – to show people the impact this great peace with God has on your lives.

3. A picture of what you've become (Ephesians 2:19-22)

- **Citizens** of a new kingdom! God rules over *you*.
- **Members** of a new family! God loves *you*.
- Joined together = **a dwelling place** for God!

You are not what you do or what you've done, you are not what's been done to you, you are not your relationships, your identity is not in your job, your kids, your savings account or how much traveling you've done.

Look at the difference between **Ephesians 2:1-2** and **19-22!**

1 Peter 2:9-10

You might be an alien in this world but you're not an alien to God.