

THE TIME FOR A THIRD PARTY

Ephesians 2.11-22

In this section of Paul’s letter to the Christians in Ephesus he recalls how God, through Jesus, rescued them from their pagan past and united them, with the Jewish believers, into the one people of God.

¹¹ Don’t forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2.11-22 New Living Translation

There’s Another Way to Live: Going Third Party

1. Make sure Jesus is your **CORNERSTONE**. *And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself... V20*

2. Resist the old party cultural markers of **“IN”** and **“OUT”** .
He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. V15

3. Boldly cross **BOUNDARIES** like Jesus. *He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. V17*

4. Ask the **HOLY SPIRIT** to help you to become a peacemaker.
V17-18

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?

Love God, Love Others, Learn Jesus, DO SOMETHING!

Today’s sermon can be found on our website beaverdambaptist.org