

The Two Made One

Ephesians 2:11 - 22

Devotional Reading: Romans 9:14 - 24

Background Scripture: Ephesians 2:11 - 22

LESSON AIMS: the students will:

- **Identify** Christ's purpose and His method for achieving it
- **Explain** the meanings of being "far off" and being "near"
- **State** one way that he or she can live in peace and unity with believers

INTRODUCTION: The world is becoming more diverse, in so many ways. Every day, we so often hear of the many ways we are different. Paul speaks of the power of Jesus to bring us together. Differing cultural and religious backgrounds can stir up conflict. The Book of Ephesians reminds us that Jews and Gentiles, though once alienated from each other, are brought together in Christ. He has broken down the wall and made us one - - joined together and growing into a dwelling place for God.

KEY VERSE: ²¹ *In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:* ²² *In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*
Ephesians 2:21 - 22

LESSON:

Humanity Divided

Ephesians 2:11 - 12

Humanity United

verses 13 - 22

Summary: Christ not only brings peace and reconciliation [Colossians 1:20] but also is the embodiment and personification of peace [Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:5]. Paul shows in this passage that the peace that believers have with God is foundational for mutual acceptance and love between Jewish and Gentile believers. Before Christ, Gentiles had no easy entry into the people of God. Because of Christ, all people can be brought near to Him. Jesus is our Peace. He breaks down any and every barrier that we have created. Because of Him, Jews and Gentiles have equal access to God.

Questions:

1. *In what ways can you help your church promote unity in Christ?*
2. *How should the reality of peace with God influence your activities this week?*
3. *What guardrails can you erect to keep you grounded on the proper foundation?*

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DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
<i>Mon., Aug. 11th</i>	A Light to the Nations	Isaiah 49:1 – 6
<i>Tue., Aug. 12th</i>	God's Mercy Reaches All	Romans 9:14 – 24
<i>Wed., Aug. 13th</i>	Salvation Is for All	Romans 10:1 – 15
<i>Thurs., Aug. 14th</i>	Grafted Branches	Romans 11:16 – 29
<i>Fri., Aug. 15th</i>	God Will Dwell in our Midst	Zechariah 8:1 – 12
<i>Sat., Aug. 16th</i>	Seek God Together	Zechariah 8:13 – 23
<i>Sun., Aug. 17th</i>	Built into a Holy Temple	Ephesians 2:11 - 22