

If you have any questions, write them below:

# THE CHURCH IN EPHESIANS

a Correspondence Course – Nine Lessons by Paul K. Williams

## Lesson 3: “One New Man”

**Note to Student:** Please read Ephesians 2 carefully before studying this lesson. Think about what you have read. Pray to God.

### OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS 2

There are two sections in Ephesians 2.

- I. Jews and Gentiles both saved by grace in Christ Jesus - 1-10
  - A. Gentiles were dead in trespasses and sins - 1-2
  - B. We Jews also lived in the lusts of the flesh - 3
  - C. We were made alive with Christ, raised up with Him, seated with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus - 6
  - D. By faith - 8-9
  - E. We are created in Christ Jesus to walk in good works - 10
  
- II. This was accomplished by the cross and is realized in the one body, the holy temple of the Lord - 11-22
  - A. In the cross the law of Moses was abolished and now Jew and Gentile are saved alike by the blood of Christ - 11-16
  - B. There are now both reconciled in one body to God - 16
  - C. There is therefore only one church for all.
  - D. It is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone - 20
  - E. The church is the dwelling of God - 21-22

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The emphasis in this chapter is on what Christ has done in order to build

His church. Mankind was helpless in sin, Jew and Gentile alike. The law of Moses caused enmity between Jew and Gentile. Jesus solved all of that through His death on the cross. Now we are all reconciled in the one body through the cross; we are all in the one holy temple of the Lord.

## **I. Jews and Gentiles Both Saved by Grace in Christ Jesus**

### **Raised from the Dead (1-7)**

From death to life. This was the dramatic change which took place in the lives of the Ephesians. It is the change which takes place whenever one today leaves the life of sin and is cleansed by the blood of Christ.

Spiritual death is the condition of being separated from God (v12). What a horrible death! If a sinner can be made to understand that he is in this death he will writhe in anguish and will desire by all means to be free from it. Paul describes him as *“having no hope and without God in the world”* (v12). He can only look forward to the judgment with despair, knowing that he deserves eternal punishment in hell—and that he will receive it. He can pray, he can give all his money, but God will not listen to his prayers nor grant him forgiveness for his money. The sinner owes a debt which he cannot pay. The debt has cut him off from God. He is dead in his trespasses and sins. This was the condition of the Gentiles (verses 1 & 2), and it was the condition of the Jews (note the word “we” in verse 3). It is the condition of us all without Christ.

While we are dead we *“walk according t the course of this world.”* (V2) This means that we live *“in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind.”* (3). In that condition we are *“by nature* (long established habit, not by birth) *children of wrath.”* The unsaved are walking dead men even though they may not know it. They do not know that their troubles and unsatisfied longings are caused by their sins; they do not know that their prayers cannot be heard by the God from whom they are separated. It is important for sinners to understand this. Only then will they long to be free from the terrible condition caused by sin.

43. T F We build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets when we follow what they wrote in the New Testament.

44. T F If we build on some other foundation, Jesus will be pleased.

### **A Holy Temple (21-22)**

The building which is erected on the true foundation, made up of living stones (1 Peter 2:5) properly fitted together, grows into a holy temple of the Lord. Every Christian is a stone in that temple—in which God dwells in the Spirit! The church of God is God’s dwelling place. He does not live in a temple made with hands, He lives in the temple built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.

### **Summary:**

What have we found in this chapter? We have found that the church is truly built by Christ. No man could unite Jew and Gentile in one body. No man could take away the law of Moses and save us by grace. This is what Jesus did.

Now those who are in that one body are fellow-citizens with the saints, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, growing into a holy temple in which God dwells in the Spirit.

Remember, therefore, *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (10).

work is to be the foundation of the church. Yet Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:11 that Jesus Christ is the foundation. “*For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*” How can the apostles and prophets also be the foundation?

When Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles He said, “*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*” (John 14:26) “*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, he will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*” (John 16:13) When the apostles and prophets spoke, they spoke what was revealed to them by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guided them into all the truth—the truth which came from Jesus. Therefore when we listen to the apostles and prophets, we are building our lives upon Jesus. They laid the foundation which is the word of God. They wrote it and we have their words in the New Testament. Their words are the foundation of the church. When we preach that word, we are preaching the foundation which is Jesus Christ.

These words contain a warning. God’s household is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the corner stone. The churches of men are built upon the traditions of men, the “revelations” of men, the feelings of men. Their creed books contain things not found in the foundation, therefore those churches are not built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone. If anyone builds on any other foundation than Christ Jesus, that person is a fool (Matthew 7:26-27) who will be disowned by Jesus in the judgment day (Matthew 7:21-23).

#### **Questions:**

41. T F The foundation of the church is made up of men living on earth today.
42. T F The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth.

Spiritual death is separation from God, but the word “death” also implies helplessness. When we were dead we were not able to come to God because we did not have the power. We could not raise ourselves from the dead. The only One with the power was God. Praise be to Him! He loved us and raised us from the dead! (vs 4-6).

#### **Questions (Circle T for True or F for False)**

1. T F This chapter tells what mankind has done to build a church.
2. T F Mankind was helpless in sin.
3. T F When a man is saved he changes from death to life.
4. T F When one is dead spiritually that one is separated from God.
5. T F Spiritual death is caused by sin (v.1).
6. T F The “prince of the power of the air” is Jesus (v.2).
7. T F Both Gentiles and Jews are separated from God by their sins.

#### **Not as a Result of Works**

“*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*” (Vs.8-9)

Works ARE necessary to salvation. James wrote, “*You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.*” (James 2:24). It is clear that James was writing about a different kind of works than Paul. Paul is talking about works which EARN salvation, of which one can BOAST. Works cannot earn us the forgiveness of even one sin; therefore there is never any place for boasting when we are forgiven. However, faith without works is dead (James 2:17). This means that unless our faith causes us to do what God says to do, God will not forgive us. Works of *obedience* ARE necessary to salvation. Paul wrote that Christ gave him apostleship “*to bring about the obedience of faith*” among all the gentiles. (Romans 1:5) We are saved by grace (the gift of God) through faith (obedient faith), not by works which *earn* salvation.

#### **Questions:**

8. T F Salvation is the gift of God.
9. T F Works of obedience are necessary to salvation.

- 10. T F Man earns salvation through his works.
- 11. T F We are saved by faith.
- 12. T F We are saved by faith without works of obedience.

### Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works (10)

The purpose of our salvation is that “*we should walk*” in the “*good works which God prepared beforehand.*” (v.10). Christians are new creatures doing new things—good works. This is our purpose: we were “*created in Christ Jesus for good works.*” God has not left us to guess what these good works are. The book of Ephesians was written to tell us how to live, as were the other books of the New Testament. When we study and live by these books we will be “*equipped for every good work.*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The sinner walks according to the course of this world (v.2); the child of God walks in good works. The members of Christ’s church must walk in a way completely different from the walk of the devil’s children. God’s church is to be pure, holy, without spot and without blemish, made up of people zealous of good works.

One of the marks of Christ’s church is that it is striving for purity, even punishing those who refuse to walk in purity. In 1 Corinthians 5 Paul instructs the local church to publicly “*deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh.*” (1 Cor 5:5) Then he tells the individuals: “*But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.*” (1 Cor 5:11). The church of Christ must not only teach against such wickedness, it must act against those who engage in these deeds and refuse to repent.

### Questions:

- 13. T F Christians are the workmanship of God.
- 14. T F Christians do not have to work.
- 15. T F The scriptures furnish us to every good work.
- 16. T F The purpose of our salvation is that we should be happy.

- 34. T F Jew and Gentile are reconciled in different bodies.
- 35. T F Spiritual blessings are found outside of Christ.
- 36. T F Different churches for different people is what God wants.
- 37. T F The prophecy of Isaiah 11 is fulfilled in the church.

### This church is further described in verses 19-22

The members of the one body are “fellow-citizens,” “saints,” members of “God’s household.” (10) We could study each of these descriptions and get a great deal of good from the study. Think for a while what it means to be a citizen of God’s kingdom, and think about the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. The word “saint” means “holy ones,” or “those who have been made holy and set apart for God’s service”. Think of the holiness which is given to those in the one body, the holiness which results from being cleansed by the blood of Christ. Think of the responsibility to continue living a holy life in the one body. Finally consider what it means to be a member of God’s household. We are in His family; we are His children. Again, think of the privileges and responsibilities of those who are in God’s household.

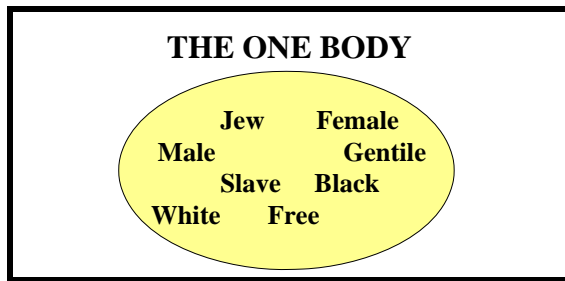
From these terms we can see that being a member of the one body is not like being a member of a social club. If you are in Christ’s church, you are in a completely new relationship which governs your life all day, every day. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17: “*Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*”

### Questions:

- 38. T F The word “saint” means a dead person who was especially holy.
- 39. T F We are “fellow-citizens” of God’s kingdom now.
- 40. T F Members of the one body are members of God’s family.

### The Foundation (20)

God’s household, the church is “*built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.*” (20) This is an interesting way to describe the work of the apostles and prophets. Their



In Isaiah 11 is a prophecy of the coming of the Messiah (Jesus). At His coming *“the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them”* (Isaiah 11:6). The verses in Ephesians we are now studying tell us of the fulfilment of that prophecy. The wolf and the lamb are natural enemies yet they will dwell together in peace. The Jew and the Gentile were enemies because of the law of Moses but in Christ’s one body they dwell together in peace. Some false teachers think that Isaiah’s prophecy has not been fulfilled and talk about “the wonderful world tomorrow,” but those who understand Ephesians 2 know that peace has been brought by Christ and we who are in the one body have “the wonderful world today.” We are experiencing the joy of being one with all people in Christ.

**Questions:**

- 25. T F The New Testament separates the “Circumcision” from the “Uncircumcision.”
- 26. T F The Gentiles were “without God in the world.”
- 27. T F The Gentiles were brought near by the law of Moses.
- 28. T F The law of Moses was the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile.
- 29. T F When Jesus died on the cross the law of Moses was abolished.
- 30. T F The law of Moses was given to lead us to Christ.
- 31. T F Jesus came to fulfill the law of Moses.
- 32. T F Only circumcised men are accepted by God.
- 33. T F Jesus was the end of the law.

- 17. T F The sinner walks in good works.
- 18. T F The church must do nothing to the member who walks in sin.
- 19. T F The Christian must not eat with an immoral member of the church.

**Seated With Christ in the Heavenly Places (6)**

Before we finish this section, we must note verse 6. After saying that God made us alive together with Christ Paul says, *“and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.”*

In lesson 2 we found that the expression *“in the heavenly places”* means *“in the spiritual realm.”* Here is a stupendous fact. Christians are *now* seated with Christ! With Him we are ruling over Satan. We are no longer under the control of Satan—we have been raised up with Christ. Now in everything we are with Him. It is no wonder, then, that *“in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.”* (Romans 8:37).

In Ephesians 6:13-18 we will find how Christ furnishes us with everything we need to overcome Satan in our lives. “In Christ” we rule with Him in the heavenly places

**Questions:**

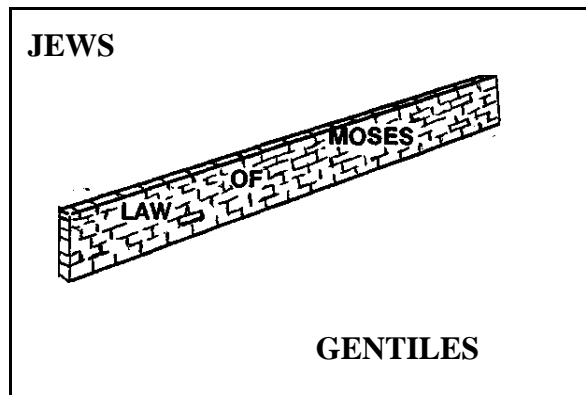
- 20. T F Those in the one body are seated with Christ.
- 21. T F Christ is ruling over Satan.
- 22. T F Christians are ruling with Christ over Satan.
- 23. T F We are raised up with Christ when we are saved.
- 24. T F We are raised up with Christ when we are baptized. (See Romans 6:3-11)

**II. This was accomplished by the cross and is realised in the one body, the holy temple of the Lord—11-22**

**In the cross the law of Moses was abolished and now Jew and Gentile are saved alike by the blood of Christ. (11-18)**

The law of Moses separated the “Circumcision” from the “Uncircumcision.” The result was that the Gentiles were “separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, *“having no hope and without God in the world.”* (V12). As long as the law of Moses continued that was the condition of the Gentiles. Jesus came to change this. *“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”* (v13). The “blood of Christ” brought us near because His sacrifice on the cross abolished the law and purchased salvation from our sins.

Let us study verses 14 and 15 carefully. *“For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.”* (v14). Circumcision, and the law of Moses which commanded circumcision, was like a wall between the Jew and the Gentile. The Uncircumcised were unclean, and this would always be the case until that wall was taken down. Jesus did this. He broke down the barrier of the dividing wall in order that peace could come.



*“By abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace.”*(15) Here it is plainly said that Jesus abolished the “Law of commandments contained in ordinances.” The law of Moses had done its job of leading us to Christ (Galatians 3:24-25). It

was time for it to be abolished. Jesus did this “in His flesh.” When His flesh was nailed to the cross, the law of Moses was nailed to that cross with Him (Colossians 2:14). Therefore there is no longer circumcision or uncircumcision. *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.”* (Galatians 5:6) *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:28).

Let me stress that the law of Moses *had* to be taken away I order for Jew and Gentile to be one. If you understand this you will be helped in your Bible study. The law of Moses was never intended to continue until the end of time. Jesus came to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17). The law was pointing to the time when all men could be saved through blood better than the blood of animals. Jesus was the purpose (end) of the law (Romans 10:4). When he fulfilled the law, it was finished and therefore abolished. If He had not abolished the law, Jew and Gentile could not be one—and forgiveness of sins would still not be available!

Verse 16 tells us that reconciliation for both is in “one body.” *“And might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.”* Because the enmity (state of being enemies) between Jew and Gentile, and the enmity between man and God was put to death through the cross, we are now reconciled in one body. That body is the church, as we found in Ephesians 1:22-23. Jews and Gentiles are one in the one body, Jews and Gentiles are one with God in the one body. This is not accomplished outside of the church. All spiritual blessings are in Christ (1:3).

This and many other passages tell us plainly that there is only one church. It is a united church with all peoples becoming “one new man.” There is no room for different churches for different people. The concept of a Roman church, a church of England, an African gospel church, or a Dutch reformed church is the opposite of what this passage teaches.