

Ephesians: God's New Community
A community in unity (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Outsiders (11-12)

- *The problem with human relationships (v.11)*

- *The problem between man & God (v.12)*

Welcomed (13-18)

The turning point: "BUT now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (v.13)

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" (v.14)

- *Jesus set aside the law (v.15)*

- *Jesus created a single new humanity (v.15)*

- *Jesus reconciled both Jew & gentile to God (v.16)*

"For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" (v.18)

Home (19-22)

We are "no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow" (v.19):

- *Citizens in God's kingdom (v.19)*

- *Children in God's family (v.19)*

- *Stones in God's holy temple (v.20-22)*

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A community in unity (Ephesians 2:11-22)
Digging Deeper notes for personal or group reflection

Outsiders (11-12)

Have you ever been an 'outsider' in any way? What was your experience like & how did it feel?

What was the problem in the way that the Jews viewed the Gentiles?

Welcomed (13-18)

Do you feel 'near' to God? What does Paul mean in v.13 when he says this? Refer to v.17-18 to help here too.

What 'walls of hostility' could we end up building which create barriers between us as Christians? What do we need to think and do in order to remove them?

Home (19-22)

What privileges are there of being a citizen of the United Kingdom? What are the privileges of being citizens of God's Kingdom? How might you appreciate these more?

Why is it important for the church to build its foundation on the Bible? What is the problem when we add to or take away parts of the Bible?

In what ways do we need to rely on Jesus as our cornerstone, keeping unity amongst us and helping us to grow together?

How do these verses re-shape your view of church, and of PBC?!