



FEARLESS



Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.


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¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

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¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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Identify As “The Other”

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Identify As “The Other”

Faithless, once separate from Christ,
Homeless, they were separated from the nation of Israel –
God’s chosen people.

Friendless, separate from Israel, they were excluded from
the covenant promises Israel enjoyed.

Hopeless without Christ

Godless, they were separated and completely alienated
from God.

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I AM “The Other”

I do not need to fear the other
because at one point my identity
was “the other”

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Christ is our Peace

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Christ is our Peace

“Our human tendency is to flock to people who are like us—to tribalize. I sometimes wonder if the animosity some express toward those who offer a different] is motivated by the fear that we may be influenced or become like those that are different. As such our interactions are not characterized by humility, openness, interdependence and hopeful invitation. Rather, they are characterized by fear, and a retreat to what we know.” – William Willimon

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A dramatic, dark seascape with a storm brewing over a rocky coastline. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, and the water is turbulent with white foam from a wave crashing in the foreground. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

A mandate for Radical Hospitality

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Being welcomed into the family of
God we now share in his work of
radical hospitality.

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Just as the inclusion of the Gentiles meant a radical rethinking of the identity of the church, so today hospitality to the excluded other will mean opening ourselves to the possibility of learning something new about what it means to follow God in Christ. To the extent that are unwilling to do this, to the extent that we welcome others only insofar as they already reflect who we are, we have not yet begun to embody hospitality. Rethinking of what makes us “us” allows for a fuzzy boarder when it comes to belonging to the group, and it renders obsolete any simple in/out distinction. This will allow for the stranger to become a friend. - Scott Bader-Saye

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