

# *One plus One equals One*

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A study in the book of Ephesians  
Chapter 2:11-18

## Walk Like an Ephesian 4

Please take a moment to quiet your heart before the Lord and ask forgiveness for any known sin. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit and open the eyes of your heart to the truth of His word. Beseech the Lord God of Heaven to stir up a new passion in your heart for His Word and to change you through your study time today. After you have prayed, please write you initials in the blank \_\_\_\_\_.

Now please read Ephesians 2:11-18:

*"11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

*14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father."*

Please go back and highlight or note any important thoughts or verses that stand out to you from our portion of scripture.

Now please go to Blue Letter Bible (BLB) <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>, type Ephesians 2:11-18 in the search bar, and read the text in two additional versions of the Bible. (Instructions for using BLB are included in day one of this study.)

Write down any questions you have concerning our text today in the space below. As we study today, put a check mark by your questions as we find answers.

Please read verse 11 again.

**What does Paul ask the Ephesians to remember?**

**What is the purpose of remembering?**

As an educator I know that learning is impossible apart from memory.

**Why might it be advantageous to remember what we used to be?**

There are seasons in my life that I wished could be forgotten. Memories played over in my mind like a broken record (with Satan pushing the button) and with each repetition I relived the shame and remorse. Time and time again, I desperately asked God to erase them from my mind. One day while talking to God about why I had to continually remember my sin in HD living-color, I felt Him whisper in my soul that if I could not remember, it would be impossible to learn, and I would be destined to repeat my sin. Instead of forgetting painful memories, I needed to *reframe* them and use them as opportunities to remember what I *used to be*, and praise God for my deliverance and what I have become through Him. Shame turned to praise! Satan is now not so quick to remind me of my past. This *reframing* process changed my life. I am no longer a victim chained to the past, but a victor!

**Please read verse 11 again. Write three titles from this verse in the space provided.**

We are going to define these titles and ask ourselves a few questions.

Gentiles mean a *multitude, a people group, of foreign nations not worshipping the true God, pagans, Gentiles.*

**Do you have any areas of your life that are not under the authority of God in which you are living like the world?**

Uncircumcision means *one who is uncircumcised, a condition in which the corrupt desires rooted in the flesh were not yet extinct.*

**Do you have any desire of the flesh you may not be acting upon but still battle with?**

Circumcision translates as *the act or rite of circumcision, a term used of the Jews, of Christians separated from the Jews or from unbelievers*. But verse 12 highlights the true distinction between the circumcised and uncircumcised—Jesus.

**As a Christian, is there anything that you need to separate yourself from in order to follow Christ?**

**How are those who are without Christ described in verse 12?**

**Please go to BLB and do word searches for *aliens* and *strangers*. Record what you discover in the space provided.**

**What were we alienated from?**

In the world there is no hope apart from God. He is our only hope. Please read verse 13 again. If you are a Christian, you are no longer a stranger or an alien to God. What caused this change in status? The Blood of Christ. The Blood of Christ unites Gentiles and Jews, slaves and free, male and female.

**What else did Jesus put an end to (verse 14)?**

But what was the wall of partition? The wall of partition was a man-made feature that was added to Herod's Temple. It was not part of God's original temple. Its main function was to separate Jews and Greeks. According to Matthew Henry:

"He [Jesus] *broke down the middle wall of partition*, the ceremonial law, that made the great feud, and was the badge of the Jews' peculiarity, called *the partition-wall* by way of allusion to the partition in the temple, which separated the court of the Gentiles from that into which the Jews only had liberty to enter."

Jameison, Faucett and Brown states the Wall of Partition was a:

"...balustrade of stone which separated the court of the Gentiles from the holy place, which it was death for a Gentile to pass. But this was but a symbol of the partition itself, namely, "the enmity" *between "both"* [Jew and Greek] *and God* (Ephesians 2:15). Hence there was a twofold wall of partition, one the inner wall, severing the Jewish people from entrance to the holy part of the temple where the priests officiated, the other the outer wall, separating the Gentile proselytes from access to the court of the Jews."

To read more about the wall of Partition, please click on the following link: [The Wall of Partition.](#)

Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, both Jew and Greek equally needed Jesus. Through the life and death of Christ, Jesus fulfilled all of the Law, and put an end to the differences separating Jews and Greeks and mankind and God. The wall was down, and the veil was torn. "One new man was created from the two." Now both Jew and Greek had access to the Holy of Holies—to the Presence of God.

**How did Jesus abolish the Wall of Partition (verses 15 and 16)?**

**What do we receive as a result (verses 15 and 16)?**

**Please read verses 18 and 19 once more. Why are Jews and Greeks able to live in peace now?**

Before Jesus' death on the cross, only one group had access to the presence of God—the priests. (One priest, one day a year. Hebrews 9:7). Now, because of the death of Jesus on the cross and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, all believers, Jew or Gentile, have access to the Father. This privilege is not a once-in-a-lifetime event (as you will see as we look into the original language)—it's meant to be so much more.

The original word for access used in verse is *prosagōgē*, which means *the act of bringing to or moving to*. Contained within *prosagōgē* is a smaller word *agōgē*, which means *a conducting, a leading, training, discipline, a manner of life* (emphasis mine). God does not want us to meet with Him one day a year or just one day a week (Sunday). God has made a way for us to be continually in His Presence. Later in Ephesians 2, we read that we are being built together as living stones to make a dwelling place for God's Presence. The term *dwelling place* infers a constant daily relationship. As Christians we are called to live in ongoing fellowship with others and with God—day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute. *Prosagoge* living is made possible by the blood and cross of Jesus Christ.

**Please list the three persons referred to in verse 18:**

By the will of the Father, the way of the Son and the power of the Spirit, we live in peace with God.

Psalm 139 states that we are wonderfully and fearfully made. God has skillfully wrought our bodies to bring Him glory. The *body of Christ*, which consists of believers of every tribe and tongue, is fearfully and wonderfully made as well. Created in God's image we are to be of *one* mind and *one* body while we walk upon the earth. So then, how do we live as *one*? What does it look like to be of *one* mind, and *one* body in Christ Jesus? When we live as one, service, sacrifice, prayer, praise, forgiveness, ministry and edification will mark our lives. Gossip, complaints, arguments, anger, strife and self-promotion will be cast off as filthy rags.

**From the list above, please highlight the attributes you wish to add to and eliminate from in your life so you can begin to live as one in Christ.**

**What will you start to do differently this week?**

In closing please read and meditate on the following verse from Ephesians 4:

*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;  
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all,  
who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”  
Ephesians 4:4-6*

Dearest Holy Father, please make us one as You are One. Amen

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