

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

UNITY AND REVIVAL: The Church, The Dwelling Place of God's Spirit (Ephesians 2:11-22) STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

**Dr. Ché Ahn
March 5, 2023**

Ephesians 2:11-22 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is performed in the flesh by human hands* — ¹² *remember* that you were at that time 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. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace (our bond of unity), who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is the Law of commandments contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ **AND 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 our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

INTRO: This is a great section in the Bible on unity. Next to John 17, it may be the most important chapter on this theme.

In the book of Acts, unity is an indispensable condition for revival (Acts 1:14; Acts 2:1ff). The Greek word *homothumadon* is used 10 times in the first 10 chapters of Acts. It means “one mind” or “one accord.” *Homothumadon* is not used in this passage, but the word “one” is. Four times Paul uses the word *one*: “both groups into one” (v.14), “one new man” (v.15), “one body” (v.16), and “one Spirit” (v.18).

God's heart is for us to be one. But in these last days, I feel that He is emphasizing oneness and unity in three specific areas. They are: 1) Unity with God, 2) Unity between Jews and Gentiles, 3) Unity between Apostles and Prophets. All three are in our text. And the promise, like in Acts, is that there will be a great revival



as we walk out this unity. He closes out this section in Ephesians 2:22 (a great passage for the prophetic number 222, Isaiah 22:22 being the other) saying that God's Church, His Temple, will be a dwelling place of God in the Spirit!

I. UNITY WITH GOD

A. GENTILES WERE SEPARATE FROM GOD

1. **WITHOUT CHRIST:** Ephesians 2:12a “*remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ”
2. **WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP:** Ephesians 2:12b “excluded from the commonwealth of Israel”
3. **WITHOUT COVENANT:** Ephesians 2:12c “strangers to the covenants of promise”
4. **WITHOUT HOPE:** Ephesians 2:12d “having no hope”
5. **WITHOUT GOD:** Ephesians 2:12e “without God in the world.”

B. GENTILES ARE UNITED WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST

1. Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace.
2. Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. UNITY BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE

A. RECONCILIATION

1. **HE BROKE THE BARRIER BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE:** Ephesians 2:14b who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.
2. **HE ABOLISHED THE ENMITY (THE LAW) BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE:** Ephesians 2:15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances,
3. **HE MADE ONE NEW MAN:** Ephesians 2:15b He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace
4. **HE MADE ONE NEW MAN TO BE AT PEACE WITH GOD AND BE ONE BODY:** Ephesians 2:16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ **AND 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 our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you

are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household

5. John 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that *the world may believe* that You sent Me." [From this text, when the Jews and Gentiles come together as one new man, the world will believe that Jesus is God.]
6. One of the keys to bringing revival is when Jewish believers in Yeshua and Gentile believers in Yeshua unite and come into a covenant relationship. My commitment to Mario Bramnick, Lance Wallnau, Grant Berry, and Dan Juster. Financially supporting all three.

III. UNITY BETWEEN APOSTLES AND PROPHETS (and the Church being United or Aligned with Apostles and Prophets)

A. THE PATTERN

1. Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*
2. The Cornerstone holds the whole foundation together. Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14).
3. Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some *as apostles, and some as prophets*, and some *as evangelists*, and some *as pastors and teachers*, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
4. Is it possible that we have not become united, attaining maturity, come into the fullness of Christ, because we are not aligned, united with apostles and prophets?
5. 1 Corinthians 12:28 He has given to the church, *first apostles, second prophets...*
6. Apostles and prophets are hitched together. Mama Sue and me for HRC, Lou Engle and TheCall, Cindy Jacobs on the board of HIM and Wagner University.
7. Alignment with Apostles and Prophets.
8. Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brothers to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard, *even Aaron's beard*, coming down upon

the edge of his robes. **3** It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD commanded the blessing — life forever.

9. Hebrew 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle, and High Priest of our confession.
10. I have been aligned with Peter Wagner, and since Peter went home to be with Jesus in 2016, I have been aligned with Bill Johnson.

B. THE PRESENCE

1. **GOD'S PRESENCE WAS IN THE TABERNACLE: Exodus 40:34-38**
2. **THEN GOD DWELT IN THE TEMPLE: 1 Kings 8:1-11**
3. **THEN GOD'S PRESENCE FILLED JESUS: John 1:14, Matthew 3:16-17**
4. **NOW THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN US: 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
5. **But the emphasis is on the corporate Body.**
6. I think the best definition of evangelism I've ever heard was given by **British Archbishop William Temple**. He said, "To evangelize is to so present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that men and women shall come to put their faith in God through Him, to accept Him as their Savior and to serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His church."

C. THE PROMISE

1. **UNITY AND QUALITATIVE GROWTH: Ephesians 2:21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,
2. **A REVIVED CHURCH: Ephesians 2:22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.