

CrossWinds Church - EFCA

February 9, 2014

BEFORE Jesus came, we didn't have a relationship with God and were not part of his family.

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— Ephesians 2:11 (ESV)

1. You were separated from Christ.

remember that you were at that time separated from Christ... Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

2. You were alienated from Israel.

alienated from the commonwealth of Israel... Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

3. You were strangers to God's promises.

...strangers to the covenants of promise... Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

4. You were without hope.

...having no hope... Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

5. You were without God.

...without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

AFTER Jesus came, he restored our relationship with God and made us his family.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13 (ESV)

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility Ephesians 2:14 (ESV)

by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace. Ephesians 2:15 (ESV)

1. Moral Laws

2. Civic Laws

3. Ceremonial Laws

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. Galatians 2:11–13 (ESV)

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Revelation 7:9–10 (ESV)

and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:16–18 (ESV)

Welcome to the family.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:4–6 (ESV)

1. The church is a family; eliminate the outsiders.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)

2. The church is a family; don't treat it like a business.

...members of the household of God, Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)

3. The church is a family; mix together.

4. The church where people are treated like family is the church where God's Spirit dwells.

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:20–22 (ESV)



Jesus Gave Me A Family