

# EPHESIANS

# E P H E S I A N S

Division Was Meant to Die on the Cross

*Ephesians 2:11-16 NLT*

# E P H E S I A N S

## EPHESIANS 2:11-16 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup> In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup> But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

# E P H E S I A N S

## EPHESIANS 2:11-16 (NLT)

<sup>14</sup> For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup> Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

**THEN**

E P H E S I A N S

# THEN

Ephesians 2:11

<sup>11</sup> Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.

E P H E S I A N S

# THEN

Ephesians 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup> Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup> In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

E P H E S I A N S

**DIVISION WAS MEANT TO DIE ON THE CROSS**

E P H E S I A N S

# DIVISION WAS MEANT TO DIE ON THE CROSS

Ephesians 2:13-14

<sup>13</sup> **But now** you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> **For Christ himself has brought peace** to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

E P H E S I A N S

**BUT NOW**

E P H E S I A N S

**The depth of our unity reveals the depth  
to which we have been changed by  
Jesus' work on the cross.**

E P H E S I A N S

**BUT NOW**

E P H E S I A N S

# BUT NOW

Ephesians 2:15-16

<sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one **new** people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup> Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

E P H E S I A N S

# E P H E S I A N S

## JOHN 17:20-23 (NLT)

<sup>20</sup> "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. <sup>21</sup> I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

<sup>22</sup> "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

**DIVISION WAS MEANT TO DIE ON THE CROSS**

E P H E S I A N S

**The depth of our unity reveals the depth  
to which we have been changed by  
Jesus' work on the cross.**

E P H E S I A N S

**THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

E P H E S I A N S

# THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- If you picture THEN (the division between people groups) and NOW (unity as Jesus intended) on the continuum, where do you see us as a church? Where do you see yourself as an individual?

E P H E S I A N S

# THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- If you picture THEN (the division between people groups) and NOW (unity as Jesus intended) on the continuum, where do you see us as a church? Where do you see yourself as an individual?
- In what ways do biases and prejudices impact your interactions with people within our church? Within the community?

E P H E S I A N S

# THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- If you picture THEN (the division between people groups) and NOW (unity as Jesus intended) on the continuum, where do you see us as a church? Where do you see yourself as an individual?
- In what ways do biases and prejudices impact your interactions with people within our church? Within the community?
- If the depth of our unity is a reflection of our understanding of Jesus' work on the cross, what does this say about us?

E P H E S I A N S

Father, you prayed we would be one.

We want to answer that call.

Lord, would you sow togetherness, harmony,  
and unity into us so that the watching world might  
see a diverse yet unified people of God.

Give us grace to live it out for your name's sake.

Amen.



