



IDENTITY CRISIS:  
ONCE FAR AWAY,  
NOW DRAWN NEAR

Ephesians 3:11-22

# SOCIAL SEPARATION VSS. 11

“Gentiles by birth” Non-Jews, seen as objects of derision and scorn

“Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe, who has not made me a Gentile...a woman...a slave”

- from the Jewish “blessings of the morning,”  
recited at the start of each new day

## SPIRITUAL SEPARATION VSS. 12-13

Social separation is bad, but it only hurts in this life. Paul reminds us Gentiles of having once been separated from God in this life and the life to come.

## QUICK RECAP

- Separate from Christ
- Excluded from citizenship in Israel  
(where God Himself was King)
- Not partakers of God's covenants  
(thus lacking a land, a priesthood, a nation, a  
kingdom and a King)



- Without God  
(they worshiped many gods, but not God Most High)

- Without Hope (1 Cor. 15:19)

BUT NOW...

“You have been brought near through the  
blood of Christ!”



VSS. 14-18

Christ Himself is our peace. His finished work on the Cross truly crushed both our alienation from man AND our alienation from God

Rom. 10:12-13

Gal. 3:28

2 Cor. 5:17-21

Jesus preached peace (the Gospel) to those who were 'far away' (Gentiles) and to those who were 'near' (Jews) so both have equal access to the Father

If the Jews are God's chosen, why did Jesus need to preach the Gospel to them?

Because He is their only hope of salvation too  
(John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

VSS. 19-22

AGAIN, as a result of Christ's finished work on the Cross, those who have repented of their sin and placed the full weight of their trust on Christ alone - NO MATTER WHERE THEY CAME FROM nor WHO THEY USED TO BE - are...

- Fellow citizens with God's people
  - Members of God's household
    - Seated at His table

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- Members of Christ's Church
  - Securely held in the Cornerstone (John 10:27-29)
    - A part of His building
    - A vital part of Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:12ff)
  - A dwelling for God's Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:16)