

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men) — remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. **Ephesians 2:11-22 (NIV)**

A New and Improved Reality

1. The reality of what was...

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. **Ephesians 2:11 (NLT)**

For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. **Galatians 5:6 (NIV)**

- **Why Remember?**
 - Keeps us _____
 - Keeps us _____
 - Keeps us _____

As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.
Proverbs 26:11 (NLT)

2. The Reality of What Is...

But now ... **Ephesians 2:13 (NLT)**

- **"But Now" I have _____ Peace**

But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. ...
Ephesians 2:13 (NLT)

- **"But Now" I have _____ Peace**

For Christ himself has brought peace to us... **Ephesians 2:14 (NLT)**

Those who love your teachings will find true peace, and nothing will defeat them. **Psalms 119:165 (NCV)**

- **"But Now" I have _____ Peace**

He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. **Ephesians 2:15 (NLT)**

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? **James 4:1 (NLT)**

3. The Reality of What Could Be

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. **Ephesians 2:19 (NLT)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)**

Ephesians 2:11-22 (NIV) 11Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)— 12remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. 14For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. 19Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit..

A New and Improved Reality

1. The reality of what was...

Ephesians 2:11 (NLT) ¹¹Don'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

Galatians 5:6 (NIV) For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

- **Why Remember?**
 - Keeps us Humble
 - Keeps us Grateful
 - Keeps us Obedient

Proverbs 26:11 (NLT) As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.

2. The Reality of What Is...

Ephesians 2:13 (NLT) ¹³But now ...

- "But Now" I have Spiritual Peace

Ephesians 2:13 (NLT) ¹³But now you have been united with Christ Jesus.

...

- "But Now" I have Personal Peace

Ephesians 2:14 (NLT) ¹⁴For Christ himself has brought peace to us...

(Psa 119:165 NCV) "Those who love your teachings will find true peace, and nothing will defeat them."

- "But Now" I have Relational Peace

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