

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 2, 2016

“Alive in Christ: Unity in Christ”

Ephesians 2:11-22

When we think of walls, we typically think of _____ something.

It is part of our _____ human nature to build _____ that shut out other people.

In His intercessory prayer for His disciples in John 17, Jesus prayed three times that they would be _____.

This prayer for unity has already been answered _____. Every person who has believed in Jesus has been _____ made one with Him and with every other believer from every age.

“For even as the body is one yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

The Spirit of God puts the _____ of God into the soul of every person who trusts in Jesus and _____ that person with every other believer in the same eternal realm.

In the Kingdom of God, all _____ come down. In Christ there are no _____, no _____ or castes, no races, no gender, no distinctions of any kind.

“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

In 1 Corinthians, in which Paul so strongly declared the positional unity of believers, he also strongly _____ the Corinthians for their _____ disunity

“And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?” (1 Corinthians 3:1-13)

“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. 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.” (Ephesians 2:11-12)

2 KINDS OF ALIENATION

- _____. They were _____—the uncircumcised—a term of ridicule, defamation and reproach. Because Gentiles did not possess the physical mark of circumcision to set them apart as the people of God, the Jews believed them to be not only inferior, but of no _____ to God.

- _____. This is manifested in 4 ways:
They were _____, separated from the Messiah, without any hope of salvation.

They were excluded from the _____ of Israel, and outside the special _____, protection, and love, that God gave His people.

They were strangers to God’s _____ of promise to redeem His people

They were without _____ in the world—lost in _____ and death.

“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.” (Ephesians 2:13)

2 KINDS OF UNITY IN CHRIST

#1. In Christ we have unity with _____.

“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. 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.”

(Ephesians 2:14-15)

Scripture is very clear: the only way we can have unity is through:

enmity = *echthra* =

Jesus fulfilled the part of the Law that _____ Jews and Gentiles—He broke down the barriers that separated them. He abolished the hatred and enmity between them. And He brought them _____ by making them _____ in the church.

Has the blood of Jesus Christ been applied to your life?

Has it broken down barriers between you and others?

#2. In Christ we have unity with _____.

“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. He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.” (Ephesians 2:16-18)

God unifies us so that He can bring us to Himself and we in turn can bring _____ to Him—that’s what church is all about.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Any reason we can find to be hurt, bitter, or angry with each other is covered with _____.

When we are saved and baptized as a picture of that salvation, we are _____ with Christ. When this happens, certain things need to stay in the grave:

Our unity with God is accessed through one _____. Unity isn’t something we get by ourselves. It’s not something we can program into the church. It’s not something we can create with better organization or activities. It’s something that _____ does in us—it’s something we get when we seek the Father through the _____, by the blood of Christ

True unity can only come when we’re _____. True unity can only come when we take our _____ off ourselves and place it on Jesus. That can only be done by the power of the _____.

Has the blood of Jesus Christ been applied to your life?

Has it brought into God’s very presence as a son or daughter?

“fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God.” (Eph 2:19)

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has _____ us into His family, the Church.

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD’S FAMILY

#1. We are built on a _____.

“Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.” (Ephesians 2:20)

If we just listen to His _____ and don’t do anything with it, we’re building our lives on a _____ foundation; and when the storms of life come along, we’re heading for a big crash. However, if we hear His Word and let it _____ us—let it mold us and make us into His image—we’re building our lives on a _____ foundation.

Can people look at the foundation you are building your life on and tell you’re a child of the King?

#2. We are built with a _____.

“We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.” (Ephesians 2:21)

When God chooses us in salvation, He “fitly frames” us together with one another so we can _____ together—so that together we can withstand our common _____.

Are you allowing yourself to be used as one?

Can people look at your life and see how you fit as an integral part of God’s church?

#3. We are built for a _____.

“Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:22)

Every person sitting here this morning was created for one purpose and one purpose only—to bring _____ and _____ to God.

We fulfill our purpose by, as the passage says, being “a _____ where God lives by his Spirit.”

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

How are you fulfilling God’s purpose for your life?

Are you glorifying God with your body?