

EPHESIANS

8. FAMILY REMEMBRANCE EPHESIANS 2:11-22

In today's passage, Paul reminds us how salvation entails being brought into God's family. We are to be unified in our love and worship of Him; only by getting our eyes off ourselves and on Jesus will we ever see true and lasting unity. It's important to remember that our very security in God's family is a result of the work of Jesus Himself.

- ♦ **Growing up, what was good and beautiful about your family? What was hard and broken?**
- ♦ **What did your earthly family experiences teach you about yourself?**
- ♦ **How is God's family meant to be different than your biological family?**

In moving us to think about our new life in Christ, Paul says we are to remember:

1. **WHEN YOU WERE alienated from the commonwealth of Israel...** Paul is referring to God's people of promise. Don't miss the miracle of what God's family is meant to be!
2. **WHEN YOU WERE strangers to the covenants of promise...** Paul is referring to our relationship with God that it is defined in terms of covenant.
3. **WHEN YOU WERE having no hope and without God in the world...** Paul is referring to our issues with despair and loss of hope when we wonder, "Will this get better?"

The world is without hope without God. The truth of our mission is that we can't give anyone hope without first showing them Jesus.

- ♦ **Talk about your life before knowing Jesus.**
- ♦ **Do you live with a greater hope now?**
- ♦ **How has Jesus transformed your relationship with others?**

DISCUSSION NOTES

There is no way for us to bridge our separation from God and others...so **Jesus comes**, goes to the cross, and is put to death. Why did Jesus die if He never sinned? Our sin. This truth is hard to even imagine. Jesus takes our distance from God and gives us His intimacy. **By Jesus' blood, God is now connected to us.**

Read Ephesians 2:11-22.

- ♦ **What are your feelings about what Paul says in these verses? What does it stir up in your heart?**

Paul says to remember what life was like *without* Jesus and now see what life is meant to be *with* Jesus. We move from disconnection to connection with God and with other people. Paul then gives poetic images so that our imagination can conceive what this means in our present and future.

- ♦ **What is the hardest part about connecting to others?**
- ♦ **What is the greatest joy in connecting to others?**
- ♦ **What is the greatest joy in being connected to God?**

Metaphor 1: God is a king and brings people into His kingdom as citizens.

Metaphor 2: We are a family – members of God's own household.

In a family we belong, help, love one another, and work toward a common goal—it becomes practical! The issue is not if it is a big or a little family, but whether it is a healthy, Christ-like family. It is not having to choose biological vs. church family—it is both. The purpose of *this* is love of others and worship of God...it is a huge part of what it means to have an abundant life in Christ.

- ♦ **If you could tell others what the purpose of being the Church is, what would you say?**
- ♦ **What would you say your specific role is in the family of God?**