

NEAR TO GOD AND A NEW COMMUNITY
Ephesians 2:11-22

I. The former alienation from God and His people we experienced (11-12).

A. An identification of the aliens (11).

Colossians 2:13: And you, being dead in your trespasses and **the uncircumcision of your flesh**, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

B. A description of the alienation (12).

Genesis 17:7: And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, **for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.**

II. The current closeness to God through Christ we enjoy (13).

Colossians 1:14: in whom we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins.

III. The basis of this closeness to God we enjoy (14-18).

Colossians 1:20-21: and by Him **to reconcile all things to Himself**, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross**. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now He has reconciled**.

Colossians 2:16-17: So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ**.

Galatians 6:15: For **in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything**, but a new creation.

IV. The characteristics of the closeness to God we enjoy (19-22).

A. In political terms (19a).

Philippians 3:20: For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. In family terms (19b).

Hebrews 3:6: but Christ **as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we** hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

C. In building terms (20-22).

1 Peter 2:4-5: Coming to Him **as to a living stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, **as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.