

Ephesians 2:8-18. *Why the church?* You have been saved by God's mercy through your trust in Him. So? It's not by what you've done—that way, no one can boast. So why? We are God's work of art [ποίημα, "a thing created, made;" 4161], created fully by Christ Yeshua—to do good things, which He determined a long time ago for us to do. Why?

Remember, you were heathens before, and called as such by those who call themselves acceptable (at least in the human mind). Remember, you were separated from the Christ, excluded not only from citizenship in the commonwealth of Israel, and its rights as to the inheritance,<sup>5</sup> but outcasts [ξένος, "strangers, aliens;" 3581] to the legal contracts of God's promise.

He, the Christ Himself, is our peace [εἰρήνης, "aye-ray-nayes," reconciliation; 1515] who has made the irreconcilable two into one. He destroyed the barrier, this wall that divides hostile motives by abolishing in His flesh the Law and its condemnations and regulations. Why? His purpose was to create in Himself one new person from the two, thus making peace

[εἰρήνης, "aye-ray-nayes," reconciliation; 1515]. In this one body to reconcile both to Father God through the cross, the very cross by which he exterminated [ἀποκτείνας, "killed, eliminated, slayed;" 615] their hostility!

Yeshua came. Yeshua proclaimed. He preached reconciliation to you, you who were so far away, and reconciliation to you who were so near. It is through Him, that not only heathens, but even the religious now have access [προσαγωγή, "access, admission, approach;" 4318] to Father God by means of Holy Spirit.

- Q What saves us according to Paul here? [mercy & trust in that mercy] Why?
- Q What makes us Christ's work of art? When were the specs for this work identified, outlined?
- Q Why are aliens to God's promises, not being part of the legal briefs concerning His covenants?
- Q Why do we dislike foreigners; and, what has now reconciled the foreigner to those who are less foreign? How so? [What is "this body" of reconciliation? Verse 15]
- Q What are the ingredients of the mortar in the wall of hostility between the alien & less-alien?
- Q What does it mean to "have access to the Father by one Spirit?"

### EPHESIANS 2:8-18

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.<sup>9</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in [εν] Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, remember that formerly you who are "heathens" by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)—<sup>12</sup>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.<sup>13</sup> But now in [εν] Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,<sup>15</sup> 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,<sup>16</sup> and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.<sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.<sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

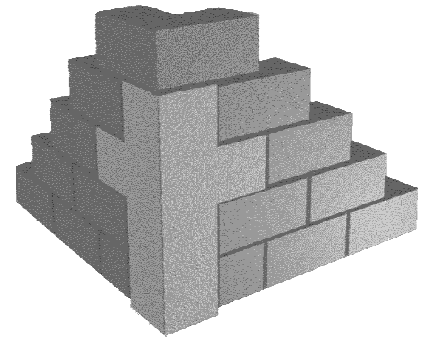
<sup>5</sup>Identify your new citizenship, your new rights to the inheritance of Israel by considering Galatians 3:26-29—to wit:

*You are all sons of God through faith in [εν] Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Ephesians 2:18-22. *So what?* As a function of this new, unfettered admission,<sup>6</sup> you are no longer strangers in God's presence, nor no longer segregated strangers to each other—you are all members of God's household [οἰκεῖος, "intimate family;" 3609]. Now this intimate family has been built on a foundation of the apostles and prophets who came before us, and with Christ Yeshua Himself as the chief cornerstone.

### EPHESIANS 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.



And why Yeshua as the cornerstone? Hey, it is in Him that the whole building is joined together. It is in Him that building our family rises to become a holy [ἅγιον] temple [ναός, "temple, shrine, that part of the temple where God Himself resides;" 3485] in [εν] the Lord.

And, here it is... In Him you [plural] too are being built [συναρμολογουμένη, "fitted together, joined, compacted;" 4883] to become—

A dwelling place in which Holy Spirit lives.

C Yes, when Yeshua came, He was *Emmanu-el* (God with us). When Yeshua asked the Father to send another in His place, Holy Spirit, God came to live, not "with us," but in [εν] us.

Q So, who should be excluded from this family, this new habitation of aliens and not-so-alien people?

Q Who are the foundation blocks? Why? Why is the Christ the chief cornerstone?

Q Who makes up the walls? And, the mortar? Just what are the ingredients of this mortar?

Q Why do we avoid the stranger, the alien, the foreigner? How can this affect and infect the dwelling place where the Lord God Yahweh Himself now dwells?

Q What can we do to build this family, this intimate home where the Lord God Himself dwells?

Q How would you characterize the value of this intimate home where the Lord God Himself dwells?

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|-------------------|----------------|
| ✓ Bride of Christ | ✓ Temple       |
| ✓ Body of Christ  | ✓ Flock        |
| ✓ Called out      | ✓ Truth Pillar |
| ✓ Holy Catholic   |                |

<sup>6</sup>[προσαγωγή, "access, admission, approach;" 4318. Note similarity to συναγωγή, "assembly, synagogue;" 4864],

<sup>7</sup>Isaiah 28:16 uses the same term in its pre-Christian Greek translation (the Septuagint); refers to a foundation with a "tested" stone at the corner.