

# love incorruptible EPHESIANS

## 2:11-22 // Strangers & Aliens

[11] Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—[12] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [14] For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15] by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, [16] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. [17] And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. [18] For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. [19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### STUDY

Do you feel “far off” (v 13) or “joined together” (v 21) when it comes to your relationship with Jesus? What would each one feel like?

According to this passage what brings us from “far off” to “joined together?” What verse says that? Is there anything else that can bring us together with God? Like what?

### LIVE

Hey Christian: if you feel far from God, you're not! You have already been brought near to him. How does that affect your daily life?

While you are already drawn near - it *does* say that you “are being built” up - what does that look like?

### PRAY

A lot of us Christians need to be reminded of Ephesians 2:13 when we feel like God is far away.

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## 3:1-13 // Partakers of the Promise

[3:1] For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—[2] assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, [3] how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. [4] When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5] which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. [6] This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

[7] Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. [8] To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9] and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, [10] so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. [11] This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, [12] in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. [13] So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

### STUDY

This passage starts “for this reason...” what is the reason? What is the author’s main point? What is he trying to say/

According to this passage - why should the Christian feel bold and confident? Is that where your boldness comes from?

### LIVE

In this passage, the author lists out a bunch of things that he IS and that he DOES because of the gospel. Make a list of the things that you do and are because of the gospel. (and if that list ever gets too important, see last weeks passage)

### PRAY

Spend some time praying for your group. Its more important than you think.

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## 3:14–21 // Bowed before the Father

[14] For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16] that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### STUDY

According to this passage - what gives us the strength to understand God's love? What does that even mean? How would you be different if you lived fully in that understanding? What is so great about understanding God's love?

For a second week in a row, the author starts his passage with "for this reason..." - what is the reason he's talking about?

Pull out all the things that the author says God does in this passage. Do you believe that God is doing that in your life? Do you think He even wants to?

### LIVE

This whole passage is a prayer. Do your prayers ever sound like this? Write out a prayer for other people like this one.

As a Christian - how can you "be filled with the fullness of God?" Doesn't that sound a little scary?

### PRAY

Write out your prayer this week. Then circle all the times that you ask for God's grace, love and Glory to abound. Are you even praying for that?