

**Montrose United Methodist Church Tuesday Bible Study**  
*Joyfully, to Love All, Serve All, and Share Jesus Christ with the World!*  
**“FAITH: I Was Once a Tourist; Now I Live Here”**  
**Ephesians 2:11-22** January 17, 2017  
**\*\*\*Please register your ATTENDANCE**  
**Sign up for REFRESHMENTS. Thank you!**

**Prayer Requests / Prayer**

**Table Discussion:** Do you know from where your ancestors came? What were the circumstances of their move? From conversations with family or diaries/journals, do you have a sense of the feelings wrapped up in their transition?

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—<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 Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**1.** From this passage, what is the problem Paul is addressing in the Ephesian church?  
Who are in the “in crowd,” and who are considered outsiders?

**2.** According to verse 13, how did God resolve the problem?

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in *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.

**3.** What is the difference between the idea of a “superior race” and Paul’s idea of “one body”? How has your life been impacted by the idea of all humanity as “one body”?

**4.** How do you think the devout Jews reacted when Gentiles started coming to their church, but did not want to adopt the Jewish custom of circumcision?

When have you experienced a similar situation in a church setting?

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his 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.

**5.** When in your life have you most felt like a *foreigner* or *stranger*?  
When in your life have you most felt like a *citizen*?

**6.** If Paul wrote a letter to your *local church* today, what issues would he address, and what stand would he take on divisive issues?

**7.** If Paul wrote a letter to the *world-wide Christian Church* today, what issues would he address, and what stand would he take on divisive issues?

**Closing Unison Prayer:**

Unifying God, in our local churches and in your Church across the earth, guide us to rely on the peace of Christ, who has destroyed the barriers and the dividing walls of hostility. Make us one body, reconciling humanity to You through the cross so that hostility will be put to death. Help us preach peace to those who are far away and preach peace to those who are near, to find that we all have access to You through the One Spirit of Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. Amen.