



When Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians there was great tension between **Jews** and **Gentiles**.

Quick History of Differences between Jews and Gentiles:

	Jews	Gentiles
Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews, Israelites, Hebrews • Name comes from Tribe of Judah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentiles Gentiles means nations or nation
Ancestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descendants of Abraham • Genesis 12:1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descendance is non-Abrahamic • Only thing in common is they're not Jews.
Sign of Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumcised • Genesis 17:10-14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncircumcised
Religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monotheistic • God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob • Followed the Laws of Moses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monotheistic and polytheistic • Because no commonality, they believed anything and everything.
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Religious Festivals, Holy Days, ceremonies, sacrifices to help them experience and connect with God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because no commonality, they did not possess the same means of connecting to God
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O.T. is history of how God lovingly interacted with the Jews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O.T. is history of how Gentiles were often enemies of Jews
Lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict rules governing dress, diet (clean and unclean), and lifestyles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because no commonality, many different rules, to no rules
Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theocracy, governed by God and Scripture through leaders selected by God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governed by self-appointed human authority

1. Before Jesus, the Gentiles were living **apart** from God.

Ephesians 2:11–12 (NLT) ¹¹Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹²In those days you were living apart from Christ . . .

A. The Gentiles were **separated** from Christ.

Ephesians 2:12 (NLT) ¹²In those days you were living apart from Christ.

- The Gentiles were **not** included at one time in all the blessings of the Israelites.
Romans 9:4–5 (GW) ⁴They are Israelites, God's adopted children. They have the Lord's glory, the pledges, Moses' Teachings, the true worship, and the promises. ⁵The Messiah is descended from their ancestors according to his human nature. The Messiah is God over everything, forever blessed. Amen.

B. The Gentiles were excluded from **citizenship**

Ephesians 2:12 (NLT) ¹² . . . You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel . . .

- The person who was not born into the nation did not experience the blessings of citizenship.
 - In the same way people today who are not citizens of this nation aren't able to experience the privileges of citizenship . . . so the Gentiles did not have the privileges that the Israelites had as citizens.

- C. The Gentiles were excluded from the **covenant promises**.

Ephesians 2:12 (NLT) ¹² . . . you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them [Jews] . . .

- D. The Gentiles were without **hope** and without God.

Ephesians 2:12 (NLT) ¹² . . . You lived in this world without God and without hope.

2. Through Jesus the Gentiles were brought **near** to God.

Ephesians 2:13 (NLT) ¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you [Gentiles] have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

- A. Christ brought **spiritual** peace with God to both Jew and Gentile.

Ephesians 2:14^a (NLT) ¹⁴ For Christ himself has brought peace to us.

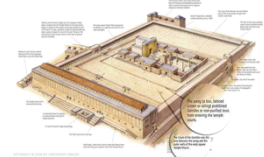
- Reconciled meant to bring together again.

- B. Christ brought **relational** peace between the Jews and Gentiles making them into one new people.

Ephesians 2:14–16 (NLT) ¹⁴ . . . He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.

¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

- The wall of hostility is an allusion to the soreg, a **dividing** wall in the Temple that kept distance between the Gentiles and the Holy Place.
 - Inscription: “No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.”



- C. Christ clarified and **unified** the way to the Father for everyone.

Ephesians 2:18 (NLT) ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

- Now, Jews and Gentiles connect to the Father **through Jesus**, and no other way!

John 14:6 (NLT) ⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

3. Through Jesus, Jews and Gentiles have become **One**.

- A. The Jews and Gentiles are now one **nation**.

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) ¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people . . .

Matthew 21:43 (NLT) ⁴³ I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit.

- B. The Jews and Gentiles are now one **family**.

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) ¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners . . . You are members of God’s family.

- C. The Gentiles are now part of one **church** with all its benefits.

Ephesians 2:20–22 (NLT) ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.