

## **Series: Healthy Church**

*The Source of our Unity*

Sunday January 28, 2018

1. TEXT: Ephesians 2:11-22

### 2. TEACHING

Historical Context: The Gentiles were: mocked, separated, excluded, hopeless foreigners.

Then came Jesus!

3. Have you ever felt separated, excluded, hopeless: an outsider looking in?  
What did you do to fit in?

4. *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ* (v. 13).

5. Jesus fits us in!

6. *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...* (v. 14).

7. Jesus is both peace and peacemaker!

8. The word for "barrier" is "fence."

9. The word for "dividing wall" literally means "middle wall."

10. How did He reconcile these 2 mutually hostile people groups to one another?  
*...by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations...* (v. 15).

11. *... His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility* (vv. 15-16).

12. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace* (Col. 3:15).

13. *He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near* (v. 17).

14. *For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit* (v. 18).

15. *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit* (vv. 19-22).

16. "Foreigners" were short-term transients. "Aliens" were those who settled into a country of their choice. Neither of them had the status of "fellow citizens!"

17. TAKEAWAYS:

A. Are you an outsider looking in right now? What will you do and what won't you do to fit in: @ school, @ work, with family, with friends?

B. Knowing how it feels to be an outsider – Are there any people in your life right now that need your help to fit in: @ school, @ work, with family, with friends?

C. By faith - Jesus fits us into the household of God. We were outsiders – not no more! What does that mean to you? How might you imagine the scale of your state and His effort to meet you where you were at?