



A SEAT AT THE
Table

**Aaron
Stark**





You're Included

Ephesians 2:11-22

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)—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.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 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, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his 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.



**Fear builds barriers where Jesus
has told us to extend bridges, and
we cannot share the hope of Christ
with people our fear has
taught us to hate.**



“In some way our closeness of community makes hospitality difficult because we like what we have and we don't want anyone to come in and mess it up.”

– Scott Bader-Saye





In a society that had very strict boundaries about who was included and who was excluded Jesus absolutely destroys those cultural barriers and norms.



“There is only one way to be saved. That is an exclusive claim. But it’s inclusively exclusive. Anyone can be saved by that one way. The path that leads to life is a narrow path—but anyone can follow it. Only Jesus can save but He will save anyone who calls on Him.” - Carolyn Lacey



**“You are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people and
also members of his household.”**

- Ephesians 2:19



Romans 15:7

“Welcome one another, then, just as Christ welcomed you, in order to bring praise to God.”



Jesus modelled an inclusivity that says:
You don't have to agree with me for me to
move toward you. You don't have to believe
what I believe for me to know your name.
You don't have to live like I live to eat at my
table. And I don't have to surrender what I
believe is true in order to make room in my
life for you.



“To the extent that we welcome others only insofar as they already reflect who we are, we have not yet begun to embody hospitality... This will allow for the stranger to become a friend.”

- Scott Bader-Saye



“If you want a community that has no messiness, no risk, join a country club. The body of Christ as Jesus lived out is a place with imperfect people. Some of whom will go on to disappoint us, betray us, take advantage of us.” – Brent Rushinka



Sermon Resources

