



The letter focuses on what God did through the historical work of Jesus Christ and does through his Spirit today, in order to build his new society in the midst of the old.¹

- **Ephesians challenges us to: Live a creative new life, in the context of the old one.**
- **If the gospel were going to mean anything at all, it had to mean something in Ephesus.**

LETTERS from PRISON
:WEEK #5—EPHESIANS:
“LIVING RECONCILED”
Ephesians 2:11-3:21

Ephesians 2:11-22^{NIV}

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ 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)— [insinuating temporary?]

¹² 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. ¹³ **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the **two groups one** and has **destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,**¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God **through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.** ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.¹⁸ **For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow **citizens** with God’s people and also **members** of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² **And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

I. Define Reconcile

¹ Stott, J. R. W. (1979). *God’s new society: the message of Ephesians* (p. 24). InterVarsity Press.



- A. Webster
- B. Scripture

II. How does Reconcile become Reconciliation? VS2:22

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

III. My Part – LIVING Reconciled Eph 3

Reconciled – 2 become 1. Becoming ONE (unity is chapter 4). “Unity does not mean sameness.”

I. Define Reconcile (a transitive verb)

A.

1. Merriam Webster - Reconcile

Reconciled; reconciling

Transitive verbs are verbs that take an object, which means **they include the receiver of the action** in the sentence. In the example sentence “she gives a gift,” the verb gives is transitive and a gift is the direct object because it receives the action (a gift is what is being given)

What is the difference between a transitive and intransitive verb?

A verb can be described as transitive or intransitive based on whether or not it requires an object to express a complete thought. A transitive verb is one that makes sense only if it exerts its action on an object. An intransitive verb will make sense without an object.

1. **a to restore to friendship** or **harmony** *reconciled* the two factions

b to come to an agreement on or an **answer** or **solution** to (something) : **SETTLE, RESOLVE**

2. to make consistent or **congruous** *reconcile* an ideal with reality

Coordinate. Integrate. Combine. Adapt. Harmonize. Merge. Align. Conform. Accommodate. Connect. Match. Correlate. Balance. Suit. Attune. Key. Unite. Blend. Synthesize. Unify. Pair. Standardize. Fit. Arrange. Join. Dovetail. Regularize. Square.

Antonyms: Upset. Disrupt. Disturb. Confuse. Skew. Disarray. Disorganize. Disharmonize. Alienate. Estrange. Disorder. [Antonyms = **All part of disunity. All part of Spiritual Warfare.**]

Reconciliation: Acceptance. Reconcilement. Conciliation. Peace.

Antonyms: War. Conflict. Hostilities.

2. Websters 1828

RECONCI'LE, [Latin reconcilio; re and concilio; con and calo, to call, Gr. **The literal sense is to call back into union.** [Mt. 5:24; 2 Co. 5:18; Ep. 2:16; Col. 1:20]

Heb 2:17 For this reason he had to be made like them,^[a] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. **nv**

↓ **now define in Ephesians**



B. Scripture

Ephesians 2:11-22^{NIV}

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ *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)— [insinuating temporary?]*

¹² *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.*
[So, what changed?]

¹³ ***But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.***

¹⁴ *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, [What is THIS barrier?]*

*the dividing wall of hostility,¹⁵ 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,¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by **which he put to death their hostility**.¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

¹⁹ *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²² **And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.** [define in point II]*

Actions words:

Brought near

2 now = 1

Barrier **DESTROYED** [dividing wall of hostility]

Through the CROSS

Our Hostility was (**put to death**) killed by JC

Through him we have **access** to Father **by** one Spirit



Defining Words:

Citizens **WITH** God's People. **Members** of His household.

II. How does Reconcile become Reconciliation? VS2:22

²² *And in him you too are being built together to **become** a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

Jesus bought the RECONCILE...it only becomes RECONCILIATION when WE accept it

A. Remembering what WAS

My life before Jesus consisted of, contained...

Eph 2:1-3

As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins,² in which you **used to live** when you **followed the ways of this world** and **of the ruler of the kingdom** of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, **gratifying the cravings of our flesh**^(a) and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

1 Peter 4:3-5

³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in **debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing** and **detestable idolatry**. ⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

THE LIST: 1828

Debauchery: (noun) Excess in the pleasures of the table; gluttony; intemperance. But chiefly, habitual lewdness; excessive unlawful indulgence of lust. Corruption of fidelity; seduction from duty or allegiance.

Lust: (noun) Longing desire. Eagerness to possess or enjoy. Carnal appetite.

Concupiscence

[cun.cue.pah.since]

2 Peter 2:5-11 [Romans 1:27]

⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ⁶ if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and



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heard)— ⁹ **if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.** ¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh^[a] and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; ¹¹ yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from^[a] the Lord.

Drunkeness: Intoxication; inebriation; a state in which a person is overwhelmed or overpowered with spirituous liquors, so that his reason is disordered, and he reels or staggers in walking.

Habitually ebriety or intoxication.

Orgies: Excessive indulgence.

Ancient Greek god: Dionysus/Bacchus (Roman)

Known for for a frenzy he is said to induce called *baccheia*.^[4] His wine, music, and ecstatic dance were considered to free his followers from self-conscious fear and care, and subvert the oppressive restraints of the powerful.^[5] His *thyrsus*, a fennel-stem sceptre, sometimes wound with ivy and dripping with honey, is both a beneficent wand and a weapon used to destroy those who oppose his *cult* and the freedoms he represents.^[6] Those who partook of his mysteries were believed to become possessed and empowered by the god himself. WIKIPEDIA

Carousing: Drunken Revel

Idolatry: I am god...You Lord are important but...

1. The worship of idols, images, or any thing made by hands, or which is not God. Idolatry is of two kinds; the worship of images, statues, pictures, etc. made by hands; and the worship of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars, or of demons, angels, men and animals. 2. Excessive attachment or veneration for any thing, or that which borders on adoration.

Ephesians 2:22 ²² *And in him you too are being built together to **become** a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

B. Declaring what IS:

His redemption in our life
Him as the peace in our life
Him as the unity in our life.

1 Peter 4:1-5

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ² As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies,



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carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

HOW do we declare:

Announce. Proclaim. Publicize. Advertise. Disclose. Post. Promulgate. Herald. Broadcast. Promote. Reveal. Enunciate. Give out. Beat the drum. Report. Introduce. Trumpet. Placard. Show. Call. Notify. Inform. Blazon. Hark. Impart. Divulge. Manifest. Bulletin. Feature. Communicate. Advise. Hand down. Blurb. Knell. Kith.

C. Living IN the Holy Spirit (ALL He has for us)

Titus 3:1-7

³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

PRAYER: Every little thing YOU have for me, Holy Spirit.

THE CONTINUATION OF PAUL'S HYMN from [Eph. 1:3-14, 15-23]

Ethos

- **Refers to the credibility or ethical appeal of the speaker.** It establishes trust and authority, making the audience more likely to accept the argument. For example, a doctor discussing health issues uses ethos by virtue of their medical expertise.

Pathos

- **Appeals to the audience's emotions.** It seeks to elicit feelings such as sympathy, anger, or joy to persuade. For instance, a charity campaign might use emotional stories to encourage donations.

Logos



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- **Relies on logic and reason**, using facts, statistics, and clear arguments to support claims. An example would be a scientific study presenting data to back up a conclusion.

These three appeals work together to create a compelling argument, enhancing the effectiveness of communication in various contexts.

III. My Part – LIVING Reconciled Eph 3 (read CEB)

Reconciled – 2 become 1. Becoming ONE (unity is chapter 4). “Unity does not mean sameness.”

Ephesians 3:1-3:21 CEB

3 This is why I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ for you Gentiles.

² You’ve heard, of course, about the responsibility to distribute God’s grace, which God gave to me for you, right? ³ God showed me his secret plan^[a] in a revelation, as I mentioned briefly before (⁴ when you read this, you’ll understand my insight into the secret plan^[a] about Christ). ⁵ Earlier generations didn’t know this hidden plan that God has now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. ⁶ This plan is that the Gentiles would be coheirs and parts of the same body, and that they would share with the Jews in the promises of God in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.

⁸ God gave his grace to me, the least of all God’s people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles. ⁹ God sent me to reveal the secret plan^[a] that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, who created everything. ¹⁰ God’s purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. ¹¹ This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.^[a] ¹³ So then, I ask you not to become discouraged by what I’m suffering for you, which is your glory.

Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ This is why I kneel [NOT A COMMON POSTURE] before the Father.

[*paterna*. Paul is saying God is the Father of ALL humans] [Only used here and in Ep 4:6. Not used in any of his other letters.]

¹⁵ **Every ethnic group** in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. ¹⁶ I ask that he will **strengthen** you in your inner selves **from the riches of his glory through the Spirit**. ¹⁷ I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through **faith**. [Not “getting” saved. A long term forever relationship.]

As a result of having strong roots in love, ¹⁸ I ask that you’ll have the power to grasp love’s width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. ¹⁹ I ask that you’ll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.



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²⁰ Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; ²¹ glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

HOW DO WE LIVE RECONCILED?

1. **We live.** (everyday normal life)
2. As **US.** (our very normal human self)
3. **With His STRENGTH** inside of us that comes FROM His glory THROUGH the Holy Spirit. (H.S. every little thing you have for me...ALL of You H.S.)
4. **IN FAITH** (Trusting scripture)

The RESULT = of being Rooted in LOVE is..... to GRASP Loves WIDTH, LENGTH, HEIGHT, DEPTH↓

5. **together (with all believers)and...**
6. **KNOW** the beyond knowledge LOVE OF CHRIST (beyond knowledge = does mean experience???)
7. And...BE entirely filled with GOD's fullness. (what is this fullness??)

Paul's Stewardship AMP

3 For this reason [because I preach that you and believing Jews are joint heirs] I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was entrusted to me [to share with you] for your benefit; ³ and that by [divine] revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have already written in brief. ⁴ By referring to this, when you read it you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not disclosed to mankind, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the [Holy] Spirit; ⁶ [it is this:] that the Gentiles are now joint heirs [with the Jews] and members of the same body, and joint partakers [sharing] in the [same divine] promise in Christ Jesus through [their faith in] the good news [of salvation]. ⁷ Of this [gospel] I was made a minister by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power. ⁸ To me, [though I am] the very least of all the saints (God's people), this grace [which is undeserved] was graciously given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the good news of the incomprehensible riches of Christ [that spiritual wealth which no one can fully understand], ⁹ and to make plain [to



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everyone] the plan of the mystery [regarding the uniting of believing Jews and Gentiles into one body] which [until now] was kept hidden through the ages in [the mind of] God who created all things. ¹⁰ So now through the church the multifaceted wisdom of God [in all its countless aspects] might now be made known [revealing the mystery] to the [angelic] rulers and authorities in the heavenly *places*. ¹¹ *This is* in accordance with [the terms of] the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him [that is, our faith gives us sufficient courage to freely and openly approach God through Christ]. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart at my sufferings on your behalf, for they are your glory *and* honor.

¹⁴ For this reason [grasping the greatness of this plan by which Jews and Gentiles are joined together in Christ] I bow my knees [in reverence] before the Father [of our Lord Jesus Christ], ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth ^aderives its name [God—the first and ultimate Father]. ¹⁶ May He grant you out of the riches of His glory, to be strengthened *and* spiritually energized with power through His Spirit in your inner self, [indwelling your innermost being and personality], ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love, ¹⁸ be fully capable of comprehending with all the saints (God’s people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love]; ¹⁹ and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses [mere] knowledge [without experience], that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of God [so that you may have the richest experience of God’s presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself].

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Footnotes

- a. [Ephesians 3:15](#) In Greek, the word for family is *patria*, which is derived from *pater*, the word for “father.” The concept of family originates with God.

I. Define Reconcile

- A. Webster
- B. Scripture

II. How does Reconcile become Reconciliation?

- A. Remembering what WAS.
- B. Declaring what IS: 1 Peter 4:1-5
- C. Living IN the Holy Spirit (ALL He has for us)



III. My Part – LIVING Reconciled (Ephesians 3)

Reconciled – 2 become 1
Becoming ONE
(unity is chapter 4)
“Unity does not mean sameness.”

Ephesians 3 God’s Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
² Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the **mystery** made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the **mystery of Christ**, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This **mystery** is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.
⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ **His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.** ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, /¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name./ ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches/ he may strengthen you with **power/through** his Spirit **in your inner being**, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted** and **established in love**, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, **to grasp** how wide



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and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and **to know** this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may **be filled** to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work **within** us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Footnotes

- a. [Ephesians 3:15](#) The Greek for *family* (*patria*) is derived from the Greek for *father* (*pater*).