

Message Series:

**Membership Has Its Privileges**  
**A Study on Ephesians 1-3 Belonging to Christ**  
**April 19, 2009**

Today's Message:

**Building a New Community**  
**Ephesians 2:11-13**

Ephesians 2:12

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**Today's Main Thought: God awarded membership privileges to Gentiles through the blood of Jesus Christ.**

**God begins creating a new community by awarding membership privileges to disadvantaged rejected people who were...**

- Separated from Christ **without any expectation of a Savior**, v. 12; Romans 9:5
- Excluded from citizenship in Israel, v. 12; John 4:22; Ruth 1:16
- **Outsiders** to the covenants of promise, v. 12; Genesis 12:1-3
- Without hope, v. 12
- Without God in the world, v. 12; James 1:17

**Getting Started:** From where did your ancestors emigrate? What did their new citizenship or freedom mean to them?

**Digging Deeper:** Before Jesus came, what problems did the Gentiles face (vv. 11-12)? How do you think the practicing Jews felt when these Gentiles started coming to their church, but did not want to adopt the Jewish custom of circumcision?

**Living it Out:** Write down two issues you feel threaten to tear the church apart. Now write down the names of two people that share an opposing view to these issues. This week spend time, call or send a note which demonstrates the love of Christ.

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Next Week: #8 in series

Ephesians 2:14-18 Breaking Down the Wall