

“Fellow-citizens of the household of God...”

Ephesians 2:11-22

1. Before Christ, our identity was our label, which separated us. [vv. 11-12]

2. In Christ, we have a new, uniting identity as fellow-citizens in God’s new community! [vv. 13-19]

- v. 14 – “made both one...”
- v. 15 – “creating IN HIMSELF one new man...”
- v. 16 – “reconciling them both to God in one body...”

¹⁹αρα ουν ουκετι εστε ξενοι και παροικοι αλλα συμπολιται των αγιων και οικειοι του θεου
²⁰εποικοδομηθεντες επι τω θεμελιω των αποστολων και προφητων οντος ακρογωνιαιου αυτου
ιησου χριστου ²¹εν ω πασα οικοδομη συναρμολογουμενη αυξει εις ναον αγιον εν κυριω ²²εν ω
και υμεις συνοικοδομεισθε εις κατοικητηριον του θεου εν πνευματι

“A new community has sprung up in which people from all kinds of backgrounds, with no natural affinity of kin or shared business, are welcoming one another and supporting one another practically. If that isn’t God’s power at work, Paul indicates, he doesn’t know what is.” N.T. Wright, “Paul”, pp. 164-165

“Paul does not want Christians to ‘tolerate’ one another across the divide. He wants them to welcome one another; to rejoice in each other’s presence and the rich diversity of God’s people; and, ultimately to worship together with one heart, mind and voice.” N.T. Wright, “Paul”, p. 166

“Within the pagan world there were many clubs, associations, various guilds and groupings of this and that kind. But there were no other groups living as though they were the new version of the human race.” N.T. Wright, “Paul”, p. 168

“One of the reasons why an individual whom God has touched finds the church so grateful a place to be is that it can make a witness for God which he cannot. He cannot be a society by himself, but the church can be and is a society of love, witnessing to God’s society creating grace.” Douglas Horton, “The Meaning of Worship”, p. 55

“We cannot revive faith by argument, but we might catch the imagination of puzzled men and women by an exhibition of a fellowship so intensely alive that every thoughtful person would be forced to respect it. If there should emerge in our day such a fellowship, wholly without artificiality and free from the dead hand of the past, it would be an exciting event of momentous importance. A society of genuine loving friends, set free from the self-seeking struggle for personal prestige...would be something unutterably priceless and powerful. A wise person would travel any distance to join it.” Elton Trueblood, “The Strategy of Jesus”