

BLUEPRINTS FOR THE BELIEVER PART 2.2

Remember Where You Came From (Ephesians 2:11-12)

11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. 12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

Question: What is one significant change in your life since coming to Christ that shows how far you've come from your past?

Application: Reflect on your life before Christ and give thanks for His grace. You were once far away, without hope, but now you've been brought near to God's promises.

Christ Is Our Peace (Ephesians 2:13-14)

13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. 14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

Question: How does Christ's peace affect your daily life when you face external pressures or challenges?

Application: Christ's blood brings peace, just like insulation protects and comforts a home. His sacrifice shields and comforts us during trials, removing the walls of division.

Question: How has the "but now" moment of being brought near to Christ through His blood changed your life, and how do you experience His peace when faced with situations that once caused you to feel distant or hopeless?

Application: Reflect on the specific areas in your life where you once felt separated or distant from God, but now experience closeness and peace through Christ. Think about how Christ's peace guards your heart and mind in difficult situations and ask yourself how you can lean on His peace more fully in moments of stress or conflict.

We Are United in One Body (Ephesians 2:14-16)

14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. 15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. 16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

Question: In what ways do you experience unity with fellow believers, even those from different backgrounds or perspectives?

Application: Christ's sacrifice unites us as one, removing hostility and division. Our unity in Christ breaks down barriers and allows us to experience the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Access to the Father Through the Spirit (Ephesians 2:17-18)

17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. 18 Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Question: How do you actively access the Father's presence through the Holy Spirit in your prayer life?

Application: The Holy Spirit connects us to the Father, bringing His presence into our lives. We can come boldly before God's throne, united by the Spirit in prayer.

We Are God's Dwelling Place (Ephesians 2:19-22)

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Question: What role do you think you play in building up the spiritual house of God, and how are you contributing to the unity of His dwelling place?

Application: We are being built together as God's spiritual house, where His Spirit lives. Each believer contributes to this dwelling by walking in unity, building up the body, and serving one another.