

Summary of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

“PRAISE GOD! WE ARE HIS CHURCH!”

Greeting (1:1-2)

I. The Church praises God for what He has done.

- A. Praise God for electing his church (1:3-14)*
- B. Praise God for bringing us into his church (1:15 – 2:10)*
- C. Praise God for including the Gentiles in his Church (2:11-22)*
- D. Praise God for Paul's ministry to the Gentiles (3:1-21)*

II. The Church praises God by what it does

- A. The Church practices its unity in Christ (4:1-16)*
- B. The Church lives as children of God (4:17 – 6:9)*
- C. The Church takes its stand with the armor of God (6:10-18)*

Conclusion: Prayers and Greetings (6:19-24)

This week's sermon was based on Ephesians 2:13-22

¹³But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace. He made the two groups one by destroying the wall of hostility that divided them ¹⁵when he abolished the law of commandments and regulations in his flesh. He did this to create in himself one new person out of the two, in this way making peace. ¹⁶And he did this to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by putting the hostility to death on it. ¹⁷He also came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household. ²⁰You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

THE CHURCH IS FOCUSED ON CHRIST JESUS

I. We find peace in him

II. We are built on him

Paul is talking about two groups.

Who are the “ones who were far away?”

Who are the “ones who were near?”

Even though his name appears only twice in the section, Jesus is the focus. List the things Jesus did.

Consider these definitions and how Paul uses these terms to describe what we were because of our sin and what we are now because of Christ Jesus.

- Foreigners: “someone who belongs to a social or political group different from yours”
- Strangers: “someone who lives someplace else”
- Fellow citizens: “same city”
- Saints: “holy ones”
- Members of God's household: “family; dwell in the same house”