

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 5:25-27 NLT

25...**Christ loved the church.** He gave up His life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to Himself **as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle** or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

Don't forget how far you've come...

Ephesians 2:11-13 NLT

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.

World without Hope

Ephesians 2:12 NLT

...You lived in this world **without God and without hope.**

Atheoi: without God.

- ✓ Does not mean they refused to believe in God.
- ✓ Does not mean they were forsaken by God.
- ✓ Does not mean they were godless in their conduct.

Atheoi: without God because - they had no relational knowledge of God.

Aliens and strangers...

Ephesians 2:12 NKJV

...at that time you were without Christ, being

aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise,

But Now...

Ephesians 2:13 NLT

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.

Notes: _____

United in Christ Jesus...

1. Belong – We are citizens in God's Kingdom.

Ephesians 2:19 TLB

Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but **you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country,** and **you belong in God's household with every other Christian.**

- ✓ **Belong as a citizen in God's Kingdom.**
- ✓ **Belong as a member in God's Family.**
- ✓ **Belong as a family member in God's household.**

2. Benefits – We are one in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:14-18 NIV

14 For **He Himself is our peace,** who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to **create in Himself one new man** out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this 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.**

- ✓ **Right to freedom of speech – Speak Jesus! (Peace)**
- ✓ **Right to defend yourself against the enemy. (Destroy barrier/hostility)**
- ✓ **Right to worship the Living God! (Reconciliation/access to the Father)**

3. Build – We are built to be together.

Ephesians 2:20-22 NLT

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.

- ✓ **The Father is the architect.**
- ✓ **The Son Jesus is the cornerstone.**
- ✓ **The Holy Spirit is the mortar that holds us together.**

Notes: _____

