

Ephesians- A New Way To Be Human

Part 10: A New Hope

PROBLEM:

In the passage we are looking at over the next two weeks, Paul is addressing broken relationships & why what Jesus did matters...

Paul will talk about our broken relationship to God & our broken relationships w/ other people- so which one should we see first?

1. The First Broken Relationship Is Our Relationship W/ God

VS. 11-12- "Therefore remember at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands- remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel & strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope & w/out God in the world"

2. This Relationship Was Broken Beyond Their Ability To Repair

3. What Was So Special About The "Covenant?"

Psalms 27:1-3- "Of David. The Lord is my light & my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries & foes, it is they who stumble & fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident."

4. We Work In Contracts, Not Covenants:

5. Only God Is Able To Keep His End Of The Contract

6. God Alone Could Fix The Broken Relationship Between Us

7. This Is What God Did On The Cross- Made A New Covenant

VS. 13-16- "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one & has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, & might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility."

8. Those Who Had A Covenant Needed A New Covenant Too

Jeremiah 31:31-32- "'Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant w/ the house of Israel & the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made w/ their fathers on the day when I took them by the

hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.”

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Paul starts off addressing the Gentiles, but he’s talking to Jews too- He’s saying what God did is GREAT NEWS for them both!

The hostility that was building up because of the Jews unfaithfulness & the hostility that was built up because of the Gentiles unfaithfulness would clash together on Jesus while He hung on the Cross & be forever removed

How did this happen exactly?

9. The Hostility Was Killed Because Jesus Was Killed

Hebrews 9:15- “Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.”

10. This Is For All Who Would Believe In Him

VS. 17- “And he came & preached peace to you who were far off & peace to those who were near.”

Response:

Those Who Have Been Brought Near: Live like it!

VS. 11a- “Remember”

Hebrews 4:14-16- “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize w/ our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet w/out sin. Let us then w/ confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy & find grace to help in time of need.”

Those Who Are Far Off & Know It: Come To Him!

Those Who Are Far Off & Don’t Know It: Come To Him!

Communion:

We celebrate this New Covenant every week in Communion...

Luke 22:19-20- “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”