

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, October 28, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
5. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

Father of glory,

May you give us the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of yourself this morning.

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know the hope to which you have called us,

Remind us that we are your inheritance and brings you great joy.

Remind us that all the greatness of your power is ours right now as your resurrected people.

Nourish our faith this morning we pray, Amen.

-based on Ephesians 1:17-19

// Call to Worship //

Isaiah 55:1-2

“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

[Come Thou Fount](#)

[God With Us](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Psalm 24:3–4 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Colossians 1:21–22
And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, (ESV)

[All I Have is Christ](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

Ephesians 2:17–19
And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Pastoral Prayer and Offering
[O For A Thousand Tongues](#)

Sermon- Ephesians 3:1-13

Communion
[Here is Love](#)

[This is Amazing Grace](#)

// Benediction //

Leader: Church, you have ALL the blessings of God in Christ. God is not a distant deity, he is your Father. Enjoy all the blessings of God and invite others to do the same.
As you do, may the Peace of Christ be with you!
Congregation: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

O God, We joyously come together to worship,
realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here.
We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you;
our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you.
Grant us this blessing, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Come, all who thirst—come to the water!
You who long for the water of life—come and drink!
Dip your soul in the river of God’s goodness;

quench your thirst at God's well of grace.
For God is here among us,
offering living water to all who would drink!
Let's worship God together!
– based on Exodus 17: 1-7

[To the Table](#)

[Your Promises](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Gracious God, We praise you continually for permission to approach your throne of grace,
and to spread our wants and desires before you.
We are not worthy of your blessings and mercies
For we are far gone from original righteousness;
Our depraved nature reveals itself in disobedience and rebellion;
Our early days discovered in us discontent, pride, envy, revenge.

Congregation: Remember not the sins of my youth,
nor the multiplied transgressions of later years,
my failure to improve time and talents,
my abuse of mercies and means,
my wasted sabbaths,
my perverted seasons of grace,
my long neglect of your great salvation,
my disregard of the Friend of sinners.

Leader: While we confess our guilt, help us to feel it deeply,
yet to remember there is hope in thee,
and to see the Lamb that takes away sin.

Congregation Through him may we return to thee,
listen to thee, trust in thee,
delight in thy law, obey thee,
be upheld by thee.

Leader: Preserve our understanding from error,
our affections from love of idols,
our lips from speaking gossip,
our conduct from stain of vice,
our character from appearance of evil,
that we may be blameless, useful, light-giving,
zealous for your glory and the good of our neighbor. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
-Ephesians 2:4-5

Leader: What hope do you have that God has forgiven all your sin and now only has love for you?

Congregation: Our only hope is the death of Christ for our sins.

Leader: And now, for those with faith in Christ, which of your evil sins keep him from loving you?

Congregation: None. For we are his and He is ours! Hallelujah, we have been saved!

[How Great Thou Art](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

The good news of the gospel is that we have been reconciled! Reconciled to God and to one another. Take a moment to celebrate our reconciled status by welcoming your brothers and sisters here this morning.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon- One in Christ, Ephesians 2:11-22

// Benediction //

Leader: The joy of being the people of God be upon you and fuel you to love and serve others this week.

Go from here as his people, full of love and grace.

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Scripture to Meditate On:

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...

Ephesians 2:13-14a

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #47

Q. But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us? ([Matthew 28:20](#))

A. Christ is true human and true God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; ([Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21](#))

but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is never absent from us. ([Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:16-19](#))

This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:

Union with Christ- that intimate, vital, and spiritual union between Christ and His people, in virtue of which He is the source of their life and strength, of their blessedness and salvation. (Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*)

Reflection Questions:

- In our *Assurance of Pardon* we were asked: "And now, for those with faith in Christ, which of your evil sins keep him from loving you?" And we joyfully responded: "None. For we are his and He is ours! Hallelujah, we have been saved!" When God looks at you, what sort of look to you usually imagine is on his face? Frustrated? Disgruntled? Disappointed? Indifferent? Why do you usually think that? According to our Assurance of Pardon (and more importantly, the scriptures), if we are in

Christ, what is actually on God's face as he looks at you? Take a few minutes to imagine God smiling at you, fully pleased with you, no wrath, no disappointment, only love and desire to be with you for eternity. What an amazing God!

- If the people of God are the new temple of God, what does that mean for the ministry of the church?
- What would it look like for us to find our peace in Christ?

Suggested Resources from last week

Articles: [Proclaiming the Gospel Through Community](#) by Tim Chester
[Union With Christ in Paul's Epistles](#) by J.V. Fesko
[Union with Christ: A Crash Course](#) by Justin Taylor

Podcast: [The Mystery Revealed](#) from The White Horse Inn

Ephesians Series Resources

[Ephesians Scripture Journal](#) (available on Sundays for \$2)
[Alive in Him](#) by Gloria Furman (available on Sundays for \$5) and accompanying [Study Guide](#) and

Ephesians Resources from Bible Project: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ephesians/>

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

2-minute Video (because we know that's all the time you have ;))

[Gospel Principles for Parenting: REST](#) with Paul Tripp

Parenting Article: [What if my Child Leaves the Faith?](#) By Michael Horton

Get the New City Catechism App: <http://newcitycatechism.com/mobile-apps/>

New City Catechism Question #32

Q: What do justification and sanctification mean?

A: Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.

FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

Read aloud together:

Ephesians 2:12–14 Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 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

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- What are some reasons it would be a sad thing to be "separated from Christ"?
- What are "covenants of promise" and why are those important?
- How did the blood of Jesus bring us near to God?
- What does it mean to have peace in Jesus?

Prayer

(Ask the kids for 3 things they are thankful for- this could be anything- ice cream, family, halloween, friends, their favorite toy, etc...)

Awesome God, we are thankful for a lot of things today, we are thankful for _____, _____, and _____. And most of all, we are thankful for Jesus because, as we read, he brought us peace! Help us to remember that even when we aren't faithful your promise to save us because of what Jesus did is still true. And you still love us, because of what Jesus did. And you are still proud of us because of what Jesus accomplished. We love being your kids. Help us to love others like you love us. You are the best! Thanks for always loving us. Amen.

Sermon Review [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Title: "One in Christ"

Text: Ephesians 2:11-22

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/one-in-christ/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

It's been said the the gospel is like a diamond, there are many aspects to it and as we look at it from another angle we see another display of its beauty. Paul already dealt with one aspect of the gospel in Ephesians 2:1-10, and that was how Jesus Christ has saved us from our sinfulness by his life, death, and resurrection. We are saved by grace through faith. Now Paul turns the gospel diamond and invites us to view it from the angle of being saved into the people of God. Salvation means not only being saved *from* something (our sin), but also being saved *into* something, namely the community of faith. It's kind of like marriage, you not only marry that person, but you also marry their whole family. You are not only saved by Jesus, but also into his whole family!

Throughout the Old Testament, the Jewish people are God's chosen people. They have the law, they have a sign that marks them as God's people (circumcision), they have the temple where they meet with God, etc. All that to say, they are the community of God together. The idea was that they were to be a light to the nations to show the world what God was like and what it meant to be his people (Isaiah 49:16). Unfortunately we often see them having more of an inward focus than an outward one.

Paul, speaking to the mainly Gentile Ephesian church tells them to remember that as Gentiles (non-Jews) they were at one time: separated from Christ, alienated from God's family, strangers to the covenants, without hope and without God. Much like Paul's words earlier in chapter 2 about our spiritual state (2:1-3), these statements leave us pretty hopeless. The list is one that is integrally connected to one another- if you are separated from Christ you are obviously alienated from God's family because being God's family is found in being IN CHRIST. Being in Christ and in God's family are one in the same. They cannot be separated! And if you are alienated from God's family of course you would be strangers to the covenants because the covenants when to who? They went to God's family. And without covenants means without hope because it is precisely in the covenants that you find hope. The people of God do not find hope in our actions or our faith, but in the promises of God who is faithful. Therefore it is in the promises of God that we indeed find hope and even find God himself we might say, as we know of his character and love in the promise to save a rebellious people.

Just as the word of hope comes in verse 4 of the previous section ("But God..."), so we see it here in verse 13- "But now..." But now, you Gentiles who were separated, alienated, strangers, hopeless and

without God, are now, right now, united IN CHRIST. No more hostility, no more separation from God and his people.

Instead, because of Christ, Gentiles are now (2:19-20) “fellow citizens with the saints” and “members of the household of God!” Quite a change from separated aliens in v.12 to part of the family in v.19.

The amazing part of that is the fact that Paul says Gentiles are now members “built on the apostles and prophets.” That means these non-Jewish people can now claim the history of the Jewish people as their own. It's their history now. How is that possible? It is possible because there is only one true Israelite, one true Jew. Only one who lived up to all that God required his people to live up to. Only one righteous- Jesus Christ. Therefore Israel's history was pointing us to Jesus, and if you are in Jesus by faith then that history is yours, regardless if you are Jew or Gentile.

God then takes this diverse group of people- religious and irreligious- and builds them into one body. In other words, he proves their unity in Him by their unity in each other. They have become the new temple. Now if you want to know who God is and what relationship with him is like, you don't go to the old temple, you go to the new temple- the people of God. You look to the diverse group of people called the church and you ask them how in the world they became one. Their answer- by the blood of the lamb. He is our peace! May the watching world find hope as they look at the temple- sinners of all types from all walks of life who have become family because of Jesus. Hate has been replaced with love. Jealousy replaced with joy. Superiority replaced by servanthood. All this because we now see we are all children of wrath, desperate for a savior, and Jesus is our only hope.