

020 - One New Man in Christ - Ephesians 2:13-15 - 2014-10-05

Call to Worship: Isaiah 49:13

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6

Sermon: "One New Man in Christ" Ephesians 2:13-15

Benediction: Isaiah 49:10

INTRODUCTION

A new section

An introductory sermon to get oriented to the new section

- help not getting confused or bewildered
- not meaning to act superior
- parts of the bible are still blurry to me: prophetic oracles

illus: Navigating a city by use of the main highway, exciting on certain side streets, then getting back on the highway.

We have been on this highway: all praise to the glory of God's grace

Now we are getting on another main highway: One New Man in Christ

-The Lord Jesus Christ has made us one new man in Himself

TEXT

Ephesians 2:13-15 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, (15) having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

BODY

- I. Understand yourselves as one new man
 - A. Individually, each believer has been created as one new man in Christ Jesus
 1. chapter 2, verses 1 through 9, as the doctrine was about being made alive when we were dead in trespasses and sins, each of us individually
 2. in verse 10, the apostle refers to God's work in us as being created in Christ Jesus
 3. to be sure we are right to take this as individual, see 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
 4. perhaps strange for those who are not me: women, children

- B. Corporately, all of us believers together have been created as one new man in Christ Jesus (2:15b)
 - 1. (13) we gentiles were far off; we were brought near by the blood of Christ (how that is, we hope to get to soon!)
 - 2. (15b) to create in Himself one new man from the two
 - 3. this being one new man is to be understood primarily as the Lord having taken the Jew and the gentile and made of them one new man in Christ
 - 4. but it also helps us understand as God's church know how to deal with other things, also, that are dividing lines among people
 - a) man and woman
 - b) slave and free
 - c) civilized and barbarian
 - d) rich and poor
 - 5. This is the subject of the rest of chapter 2, which we plan to study the next few weeks
- II. Conduct yourselves as one new man
 - A. Eph 4:1-4 work to keep the unity of the one new man
 - 1. "therefore" goes all the way back to "one new man" in chapter 2
 - 2. walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, which means to be loving toward one another as your attempt to keep the unity of the "one new man"
 - B. Eph 4:17, 22-24
 - 1. no longer walk as the rest of the gentiles walk (4:17)
 - 2. put off the old man (4:22)
 - a) growing corrupt according to deceitful lusts
 - 3. put on the new man (4:24)
 - a) created according to God in true righteousness and holiness

CONCLUSION

Nehemiah 8:5-8

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as **to create in Himself one new man** from the two, thus making peace,

Ephesians 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (10) and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Edwards:

"lie not one to another." For this is one of those disuniting sins mentioned, of which the words in this and the two next verses are mentioned as a common reason why we should avoid them - viz., because in the new man the disuniting distinctions by which the carnal world is divided are abolished, and Christ is all in all.

RWP (as JFB):

"where" In this "new man" in Christ. cf Gal 3:28

Galatians 3:26-28 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has made us one new man in Him. Therefore,

1. keep the unity of the one new man
2. live not like the old man but as the new man

I. Jesus Christ Has Made Us One New Man in Him

A. we were outside of Christ; now we are in Christ (12a; 13a)

1. “without” not meaning that we didn’t have Him, but that we were without instead of within
2. we were separate, separated from Christ
3. now we are in Christ Jesus

B. we were two separate men; now we are one new man

1. we were two separate men

- a) some were Gentiles; some were Jews (11a)
- b) some were uncircumcision in the flesh; some were circumcision in the flesh (11b)
- c) some were aliens to the nation of Israel; some were citizens of it (12a)
- d) some were strangers to the covenants of promise; some knew then (12b)
- e) some had hope of the Messiah to come; some had no such hope (12c)
- f) some had knowledge and worship of the one true God; some did not have God (12d)

2. now we are one new man

-we who were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ (13)

a) before Christ came, there was a middle wall of separation erected by the law of commandments in ordinances---the ceremonial laws of the old testament (14c)

(1) physical circumcision being the main one, given first through Abraham; issued again through Moses

(2) also laws regarding ways of eating and dressing

(3) also laws regarding the worship of God

(a) a physical tabernacle or temple

(b) certain holy days

(c) certain offerings

(d) sons of Aaron as priests

(e) washings with water

(f) animal sacrifices, and sprinklings with the blood of animals

- b) when the Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross, and died, He ended all of those ceremonies; He revoked all of those ordinances (15b); He is the fulfillment of what all those ceremonial laws symbolized
 - (1) He is the priest
 - (2) He is the tabernacle
 - (3) He is the sacrificial lamb; His the blood poured out
- c) in so doing, He abolished the enmity between Jew and Gentile in His own flesh (15a); He broke down the middle wall of separation (14b)
- d) therefore He Himself is our peace (14a)
- e) in so doing, He reconciled us both to God in His one body on the cross (16a)

Ephesians 2:11-17 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- (12) that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

(13) But now **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

(14) For He Himself is our peace, who **has made both one [NIV: made the two one]**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

(15) having abolished **in His flesh** the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to **create in Himself one new man** from the two, thus making peace,

(16) and that He might reconcile them both to God **in one body** through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

(17) And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

Ephesians 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--

Ephesians 4:1-6 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to **keep the unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is **one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism; (6) one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:22-24 that you **put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and that you put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 2:11 Therefore

Gill:

in order to magnify the grace of God in their conversion

Barnes:

to excite a sense of gratitude in their bosoms for that mercy

Eph 4:22-25

Gill:

to put on the new man, is to walk in our lives and conversations agreeably to the new man, or work of grace upon the soul; as to put off the old man, respects the former conversation, or a not walking as formerly, and agreeably to the dictates of corrupt nature, so to put on the new man, is to walk according to the principles of grace and holiness formed in the soul

Vincent:

In addition to a personal deadness in sin, there is also an ethnic or national alienation from God.

Calvin:

the blood of Christ has taken away the enmity which existed between them and God, and from being enemies hath made them sons.