

# **Sunday School Lesson**

**December 11, 2022**

**One in Jesus Christ**

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Instructor: Ralph Gordon**

# **Questions for Us Today**

**December 11, 2022**

**2**

**How do we regard Christians whose practices are different from ours?**

# **Sunday School Lesson Objectives**

**December 11, 2022**

**3**

**To understand The Apostle Paul's message of unity – in Christ – to Jews and (especially) Gentiles alike.**

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1**

**December 11, 2022**

**1. Bibliography**

**2. Points of Information: Ephesus**

**3. Points of Information: Ephesians**

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2**

**December 11, 2022**

**4. Lesson Context**

**5. Lesson Text**

**6. Remember This**

## Points of Information – Ephesus

**Ancient Ephesus, then the capital city of the province of Asia, was a large commercial, political and religious center. It was the site of a huge temple for Artemis (Diana), the fertility goddess. This shrine was considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the [ancient] World. This temple was a key site for tourism and therefore income for the city.**

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**The site of ancient Ephesus still exists today, in the nation of Turkey. It is an archeological trove that is a popular tourist destination.**

## **Points of Information – Ephesus**

**The Apostle Paul visited the ancient city of Ephesus at least a couple of times, during his second and third missionary journeys. He ultimately remained there for three years. He subsequently sent Timothy to Ephesus to succeed him.**

**Acts 19:10; 20:17, 31; 1 Timothy 1:3.**

**Christ Jesus had words of compliment, reprimand and instruction for the church at Ephesus, in the first of His seven letters to churches.**

**Revelation 2:1-7.**



## **Points of Information – Ephesians**

**The Apostle Paul wrote this letter of encouragement and instruction while he was imprisoned (under house arrest) in Rome. This is one of the four letters known as the Captivity (Prison) Epistles in the New Testament. The others are Colossians, Philippians and Philemon.**

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**This letter was initially for the church in Ephesus and was then to be distributed and read to other churches in the region. Therefore, it is also called an encyclical or circular letter.**



# One in Jesus Christ

## Lesson Context - 1

**While advising Jews and Gentiles that they are one through Christ, the Apostle Paul details and specifies the prior plight of the Gentiles.**

# One in Jesus Christ

## Lesson Context - 2

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**In this messaging segment, the Apostle Paul uses metaphors of family, citizenship and building to make his points.**

**One in Jesus Christ**

**Text – UMI Outline #1**

11

**Ephesians 2:11-13**

**The Gentile's Status**

## **Ephesians 2:11 (NLT)**

**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.**

## Ephesians 2:12

**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.**

## Ephesians 2:13

**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.**

**One in Jesus Christ**

**Text – UMI Outline #2**

**Ephesians 2:14-18**

**Jews and Gentiles Together**



## **Ephesians 2:14-15**

**For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own Body on the Cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.**

**He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups.**

## **Ephesians 2:16**

**Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the Cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.**

## **Ephesians 2:17-18**

**He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from Him, and peace to the Jews who were near.**

**Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.**

**One in Jesus Christ**

**Text – UMI Outline #3**

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

**One Church, One Foundation**

## **Ephesians 2:19-20**

**So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.**

**Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.**

## **Ephesians 2:21-22**

**We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.**

**Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit.**

**Remember this:**

**WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST!**

**HALLELUJAH!**



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