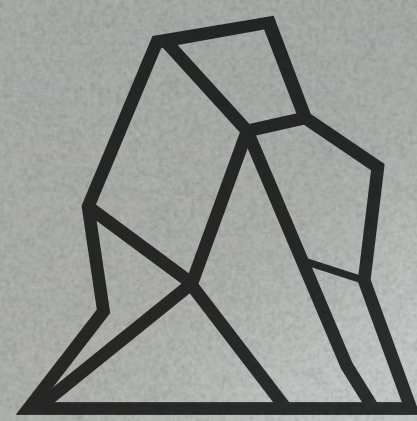




EPHESIANS SERIES
**BUILT ON
BIBLICAL
BEDROCK**
THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

How Christ's Redemption Unites Us

Ephesians 2:11-18



EPHESIANS SERIES

BUILT ON BIBLICAL BEDROCK

THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

TODAY'S MESSAGE | NOVEMBER 14, 2021

How Christ's Redemption Unites Us

EPHESIANS 2:11-18

Ephesians gives more attention to the church than any other epistle. Our passage, often called “the key and high point of the whole epistle,” is one of the most significant passages about the church in the Bible. In his desire to make his mostly Gentile friends realize the value of the church to God and for them, Paul makes them remember their past to realize their empowered present and glorious future. All this was made possible through Christ's work on the Cross:

1. REMEMBER WHEN YOU HAD NO HOPE AND WERE WITHOUT GOD (Ephesians 2:11-12)

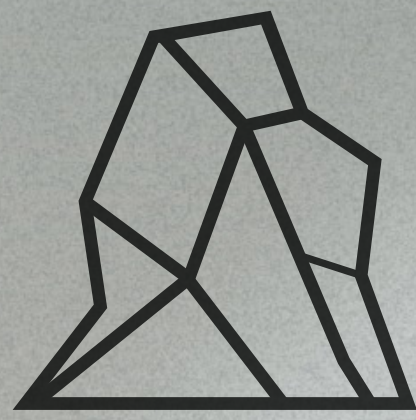
- This is one of the few places in Scripture where we are asked to remember the past. Paul mentions three things applicable to Gentiles only (that's us), but the last two apply to all, both Jews and Gentiles.
- Remembering is the key to loving and worshiping God. Remember the life-changing work of Christ in us – from being dead in sins to being alive in Christ, from being excluded to being included. This calls attention to our being works in progress who cannot become lax or proud. But remember the past only to focus on Christ and the change He has brought.
- Ephesians 2:11-12 serves as a solid warning for Christians, for we are as vulnerable to the failures of the Jews. We cannot draw people to Christ while belittling them. Salvation should lead to thanksgiving, not arrogance, and a sense of grace is the key.

2. REALIZE WHO YOU ARE NOW BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID (Ephesians 2:13-18)

a. This is what Jesus did to bring us where we are today (Ephesians 2:14-17)

- He “made us both one” (v. 14)
- He created “one new man in place of the two” (v. 15)
- He reconciled us “both to God in one body through the cross” (v. 16)





EPHESIANS SERIES

BUILT ON BIBLICAL BEDROCK

THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

b. This is who you are now and why you are here (Ephesians 2:13, 18)

- We who were far off were brought near through Christ's sacrificial death (v. 13). This is true for every believer regardless of race and other dividing differences.
- Because of Christ, all believers have access through the Holy Spirit to the Father (v. 18). This is how the church, as a new family, unites all people regardless of race and other dividing differences.

FINAL THOUGHTS

To focus on unity has nothing to do with compromise about doctrine. Have you noticed the so-called guardians of right doctrine are often the most grace-less? Is it impossible to be both doctrinally sound and loving at the same time? Right doctrine should make people more gracious and less self-righteous.

Christ's redemption resolves all forms of discrimination at its very root, including racial and spiritual discrimination. All Christians are not merely *equal*; instead, all Christians have been *united* in Christ and placed in God's church, His family. Praise God for the church and the One who gave His life for it!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does it affect you when you recall your past before becoming a Christian? (cf. Ephesians 2:11-12). How are you encouraged by your real and present status? (cf. Ephesians 2:13).
2. Are there aspects of your being (e.g., nationality, economic status, social class, education, etc.) that are a subconscious barrier to your fellowship with other Christians? How will you go about resolving this?
3. If another believer in the local church hurt you deeply, how does looking at Jesus' sacrifice on the cross enable you to forgive? What will you do to initiate reconciliation with them?
4. Pray with thanksgiving for Christ's gift of redemption, which placed us all in God's family, the church. Pray for believers who have become lukewarm to fellowship with others in the local church.

Download the study guide: bit.ly/EphesiansStudyGuides



The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Jojun Loanzon
GCF Worship Ministry



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I just affirmed the candidates for elders and deacons by using the on-line portal <https://elections.gcf.org.ph> If you haven't yet, please do.

We are essentially affirming those whom God have called into office. These are our brethren who've been using their God-given spiritual gifts. We are now affirming the spiritual gifts they have been displaying. The only difference is, now, they are being affirmed for the office of Elder and Deacon.

Scripture reminds us in Romans 12:5-6a 5-6a, *“So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.”* We are many but one body. We are one body with different parts. Individually we are members, one of another. We individually have different spiritual gifts.

What are spiritual gifts? These are Spirit-empowered abilities for service. Grace is unmerited favor. Each one has been given a different gift by God's unmerited favor. (Ephesians 3:7)

You don't really get into ministry. You are in ministry, if you are a believer. You are to do the work of ministry. Your pastor is there to teach you and equip you to do the work of service; to build up the church, the body of Christ toward maturity. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

When you put your faith in Jesus, when you believed in His Person, as God the Son; His provision, that He died for your sins and rose from the dead; and believed in His promise to give you eternal life – you were saved. You were born again, indwelt by the Holy Spirit. You were given your spiritual gift.

What is your gift? You aren't sure? Well, what do you gravitate toward? What do you enjoy doing? What are you effective at?

As we move forward with on-site worship, you might want to consider being part of the Worship Ministry Team. You might consider being a projectionist, an on-site singer, an on-site instrumentalist. Or your interest might be in sound mixing, camera work, video technical direction or stage management. Join us!

Advent is just around the corner and we will begin the Advent Candle lighting on November 28. This year's Christmas Special Service is on December 19 and we will have our Christmas Eve Service on December 24. As the Spirit leads, let us know, if you'd like to serve. Contact Pastor Migs Orleans at miguel.orleans@gcf.org.ph or 0917 541 1127, or email Chad Pineda chad.pineda@gcf.org.ph, or me at jose.loanzon@gcf.org.ph

You are gifted. You were given a gift, by His grace, to glorify God, to edify the church, and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Use your gift to serve others.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

BDO

BDO Corporate Center
Savings Account: **000661590216**

METROBANK

Ortigas Sapphire
Savings Account: **629-3-62919733-9**

CHINA BANK

Ortigas ADB
Savings Account: **1112-02006218**

BPI

Ortigas Emerald
Peso Savings Account: **9823 0217 01**

UNIONBANK

UB Plaza
Checking Account: **0005-9001-0426**

ROBINSONS BANK

Main Office
Savings Account: **1000-3010-0017-355**

PAYPAL

Please visit **gcf.org.ph/give**

Scan QR code below:

GCASH



PAYMAYA



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

GCF BAYANIHAN FOOD STALLS

The GCF Mercy Ministry continues to accept donations, here's how:

For In-Kind Donations: drop off at the GCF Lobby from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For Cash Donations: give via the GCF bank accounts (gcf.org.ph/give).

Email your deposit slip to finance@gcf.org.ph with the subject "For Bayanihan Food Stall". For questions, contact the Mercy Ministry at 0917 532 7672 or mercy@gcf.org.ph

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family's COVID relief efforts.

Just indicate "**For COVID-19 Fund**" when you email your transaction document.

CHURCH UPDATES

WORSHIP THE LORD WITH US ON-SITE!

10:00 AM Worship Service | Present your vaccination card as you enter the building.

VOTE FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS (FROM NOV. 7 TO NOV. 28)

Vote for elders and deacons on-site or online from **November 7 to November 28**.
Visit election.gcf.org.ph for more information. Contact **Grace Mosquera** at election@gcf.org.ph for inquiries.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Available during the 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. service only

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Tuesdays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | via Zoom

KidsLIFE ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Saturdays | Little Ones - 10:00 a.m. | Growing Kids - 10:15 a.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

LIVEstream (YouthLIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

YA TALKS

Fridays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

FAMILY GGEX (GROWTH GROUP EXPRESS)

Every Sunday Morning | 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn
GGEx Leader: Pastor Emerson Manaloto | Zoom: bit.ly/FamilyGGEx
Passcode: familyGGEx | For Inquiries, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

TELECONSULTATION SERVICE

For appointments or questions, contact:
gcfocstef@gmail.com (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 nn) | gcfocluan@gmail.com (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

OIKOS APPLIED: LEARN HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

Sundays | 1:30 PM via Zoom | Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month
Open to all GCFers | Pre-registration Required: Visit bit.ly/OikosApplied

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS: ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | 8:00 – 9:00 AM
Pre-registration Required: Ms. Marj: 0917 779 1549 | Ms. Jen: 0917 773 2378

MORNING OF PRAYER

Saturday | November 20 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn | Zoom: bit.ly/MorningofPrayer1120
For inquiries, contact 0932 371 3457

SERVING AND LOVING THE COMING KING (SENIORS GG CLUSTER CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP)

December 11 (Saturday) | 4:00 p.m. | Zoom: <https://bit.ly/GCFSeniorsChristmas> | Meeting ID: 817 3333 1267 | Passcode: 121121
Dress Code: Red/Green/Gold (wear with crown or tiara)

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Message us your prayer requests at:
Facebook: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | E-mail: pray@gcf.org.ph

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

We are so glad you're here today! We want to personally welcome you via Zoom after the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Worship Services.
Zoom Room: bit.ly/WelcometoGCF | **Welcome Form:** bit.ly/GCFWelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
☎ (02) 8632 1357 📠 8632 1354 to 56 🌐 gcf.org.ph ✉ email@gcf.org.ph