



**Ephesians: Declared Free – Week 4**

**Personal Devotional**

**Sermon: *A New Family for a Divided World***

**Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22**

**The “big idea”**

Through the cross, Jesus didn't merely save individuals—He created a new people. In Christ, we have a new citizenship, a new identity, a new King, and a new family.

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**WORSHIP – Remembering Where You Belong**

Begin by slowing down for loving union.

Take a few deep breaths and thank Jesus for bringing you near to God and into His people.

Before reading Scripture, sit quietly, put on your favorite worship music and consider:

Where do you most naturally find your identity?

What labels have shaped how you think about yourself?

Which community or group most influences your thinking?

Do you see yourself primarily as an individual Christian or as part of God's people?

Soak in this truth . . .

**Jesus didn't just make me new. He made us new.**

Spend a few moments thanking God for bringing you into His family.

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**WORD – One New People**

**Read:**

Ephesians 2:11–13

Ephesians 2:14–18

Ephesians 2:19–22

As you read, notice the progression:

Once far away

Brought near through Christ

Reconciled to God

Reconciled to one another

Made citizens of God's Kingdom

Built into God's dwelling place

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## Reflect

### 1. What stands out to you about Paul's description of life before Christ?

Paul describes people as:

- Far away
- Strangers
- Foreigners
- Without hope

Why is it important to remember where we came from?

### 2. What does it mean that Jesus Himself is our peace?

How is this different from simply receiving peace?

### 3. Paul says we are "fellow citizens" and "members of the household of God."

How does that challenge individualistic views of Christianity?

### 4. How might your life change if you saw fellow believers first as family rather than simply church attendees?

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## Core Gospel Truth

*The gospel doesn't merely give us a new status with God—it gives us a new people to belong to.*

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## PRAYER – Living as Citizens of Another Kingdom

### Confession

Pray:

Father, I confess that I often find my identity in things that matter less than You. I am tempted to define myself by my success, background, opinions, or achievements rather than by my union with Christ.

Pause and listen.

Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal anything competing with your identity in Christ.

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### Receiving Prayer

Pray:

Jesus, thank You for bringing me near when I was far away. Thank You that Your cross not only reconciled me to God but also brought me into Your family.

Help me value Your people. Teach me to see my brothers and sisters in Christ through Your eyes.

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### Surrender

Pray:

Holy Spirit, help me live as a citizen of Your Kingdom. Shape my values, priorities, and relationships according to Your ways.

Teach me to live under the authority of King Jesus and to love the family You have given me.

Amen.

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### Closing Encouragement

Through Christ:

You have a new citizenship.

You have a new family.

You have a new identity.

You have a new King.

And because of Jesus:

***You are no longer a stranger. You belong!***