



In Christ, we are gifted members of His Church

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ 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. 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. 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.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. 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.

¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

1. In Christ we have a shared corporate identity with other believers into one new community

2. In Christ we have shared access to the Father and we are connected to other believers as family and fellow citizens of God's kingdom

3. In Christ we are being built together as a dwelling of God's Spirit

Romans 12:4-8

⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. In Christ, we are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing mercy to others, do it gladly.

4. In Christ we are gifted members of Christ's Body

5. In Christ we serve one another through using and exercising our gifts

1 Corinthians 12

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us, a manifestation of the Spirit, so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to speak wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message to speak special knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share and drink of the same Spirit. ¹⁴ Yes, the one body has many different parts, not just one part.

6. In Christ the Holy Spirit manifests Himself through us through our spiritual gifts, we have uniqueness

a. Online Spiritual Gifts Tests:

- i. <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>
- ii. <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>
- iii. <https://mintools.com/spiritual-gifts-test.htm>

7. In Christ we have a common experience and dependence upon the Holy Spirit

8. In Christ we have community, significance and purpose