

OVERCOMING THE ALIENATION IN THE WORLD

Introduction – Our world is divided into a variety of groups that feel alienated and even hostile toward other groups. Only in the Christ community can this really be overcome.

A. Remember Where You Came from

Ephesians 2:11-13

1. The hostility between Jews and Gentiles of the first century is a model of alienation.
2. The reality is that we were alienated from God, without hope, and excluded from citizenship and God's covenants.
3. Before we can be reconciled to one another, we must be reconciled to God through Jesus' sacrifice.

B. The Peace of Christ Overcomes all our Alienations

Ephesians 2:14-18

1. Christ has destroyed all the dividing walls of hostility.
2. God's purpose is to create one new humanity in the Christ community.
3. Because of the cross of Christ, we now all have access to the Father through one Spirit.

C. We Are Building God's Holy Temple on the Earth

Ephesians 2:19-22

1. We are no longer foreigners, but fellow citizens with all God's people.
2. Every structure needs a solid foundation.
3. We are in the process of being built into a dwelling where God lives by His Spirit.

Conclusion – The world is full of prejudice and subtle separations over gender, ethnicity, culture, social class, religion, tribes, and nations. No new laws or better enforcement will overcome these alienations. Only the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit can overcome all these problems and bring us together in Christ.

Galatians 3:26-28