

# Chapter



## Part 2

(v11-22)

*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.*

*(v11)*

Paul reminds the Non-Jews (Gentiles) that God had **essentially** worked with and through the Jewish people and that the Gentiles were once **excluded** all together from God's dealings with humanity.

Paul reminds the self-assured Jews that they were a **flawed** vessel that God used in history past. He reminds them that God's use of them did not gain them spiritual **favor**.

Paul reminds the self-assured Jews that their physical connection to God (circumcision) in history past did not guarantee a spiritual relationship with God now.

*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. (v12)*

Paul again reminds the Non-Jews of their lot in life before Christ. He tells them that they were utterly **helpless** and truly **hopeless**.

Paul says that there was an  
incredibly wide **chasm**  
between the Gentiles and God.

Paul infers that unbelieving Jews  
were also part of this helpless group,  
who were cut off from God...  
although God did use them in the  
bringing about of the covenant  
promises.

Paul says that the Israelites had access to God, but that did not ensure friendship with God...whereas the Gentiles did not even have access to God.

The conclusion is that regardless of their proximity to God, both groups of people were under the curse of sin and death, and both group were cut off spiritually from God.

*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. (v13)*

Paul reminds both the Jew and the Non-Jew of what God has done for them **through** Christ. By the shedding of his blood; those who were cut off have now been brought near!

Paul says that through Christ  
the vast chasm between  
God and sinners  
(Jew/Gentiles) has now  
been filled.

*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. (v14)*

Paul **parallels** this new relationship between God and the believers...with the new relationship he wants between Jews and the Gentiles.

Paul says that there was/is a  
vast chasm between the  
Jewish people and the  
Gentiles.

But the same sacrifice that  
Christ made that brings both  
Jews and Gentiles near to God...  
should bring the Jews and  
Gentiles near to each other.

The argument is that if God was willing to overcome his differences with humanity, then the Israelites should be willing to overcome their differences with Gentiles.

*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. (v15)*

*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. (v16)*

Paul says that this occurred not because the Jews had followed the rules so **closely** or because the Gentiles acquired the **customs** of the Jews.

Paul says that God brought this about by ending the **system** of commandments and rituals and by **sending** his Son to die for both groups of people.

*He brought this Good News of  
peace to you Gentiles who  
were far away from him, and  
peace to the Jews who were  
near. (v17)*

*Now all of us can come to the  
Father through the same Holy  
Spirit because of what Christ has  
done for us. (v18)*

Again, Paul says that the Israelites were **nearer** in proximity to God...but their nearness was unable to **earn** them salvation.

Paul says again that the Gentiles  
were further in proximity to  
God...and were all together cut  
off entirely from God.

Both groups of people were under the curse of sin and death and both were cut off spiritually from God.

God brought both groups of people  
back to himself through the  
sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

*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. (v19)*

Because of this great salvation the  
Gentiles are no longer **strangers** to  
God and **enemies** of Israel...  
they are now God's holy people.

*Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. (v20-21)*

*Through him you Gentiles are  
also being made part of this  
dwelling where God lives by  
his Spirit. (v22)*

Paul says that the two peoples are now one in Christ. And they are now God's building, or God's workmanship. And God is crafting them into a holy dwelling for himself.



What are the  
**implications**  
for us?

**It can be easy to think  
that your culture or  
customs makes you  
better than other people.**



**It can be easy to think that  
your upbringing or  
your proximity to the things  
of God makes you better  
than other people.**



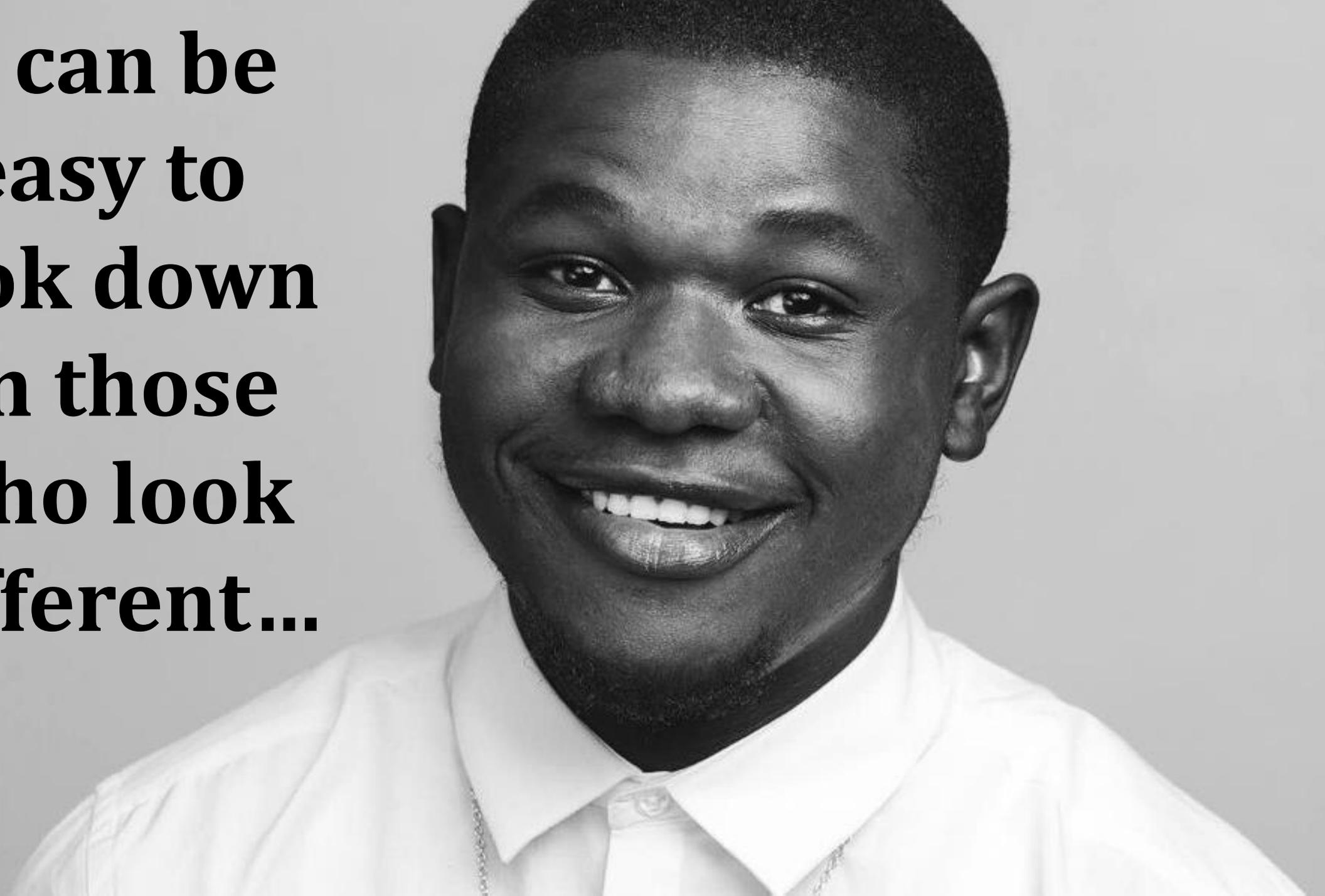
**It can be easy to think that  
your family or ethnicity makes you  
better than other people.**



**It can be easy to look down on  
those who act different...**



**It can be  
easy to  
look down  
on those  
who look  
different...**



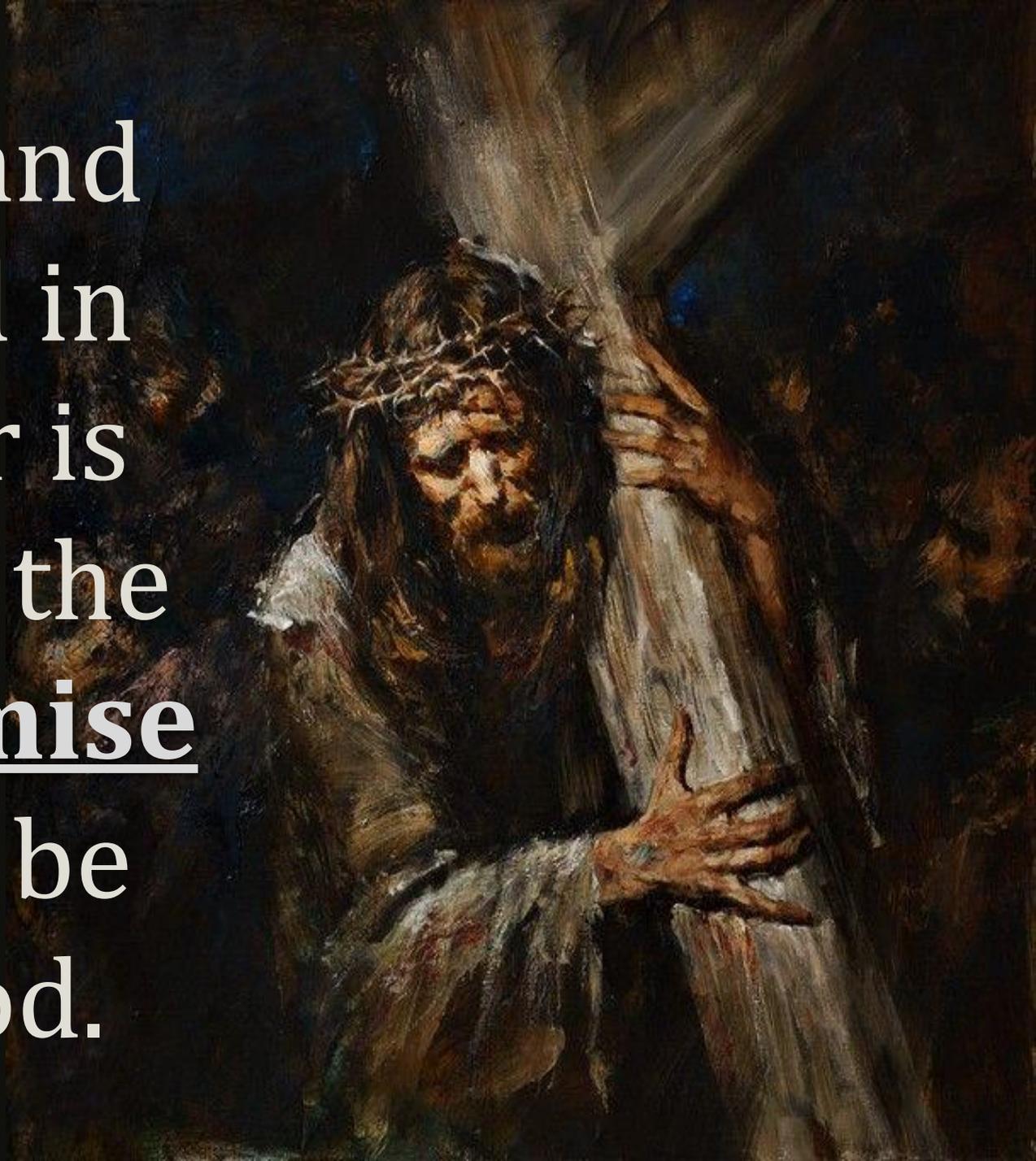
But the reality is, regardless of our nationality or ethnicity, customs or culture, background or behavior...



**We were all cut off  
from God at birth...  
and our sins have  
separated us**

**from God.**

God loves all of us and sent his son to die in our place. Whoever is willing to believe in the power and the promise of what he did, can be brought near to God.





God wants all of us to come together as one holy people. God wants us to love each other as he loved us. God wants us to serve one another as he served us.

**PRAY.**

rely.

LOOK  
around  
you

Initiate!

DON'T GIVE UP