

## Gods secret plan

The Book of Ephesians tells us a lot about this. I am quoting the New Living Translation to keep it simple to read, because many people do not have English as a motherlanguage, like myself.

Eph 1:22 And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church.

*The church is the same as all people who form the body of Christ.*

Eph 1:23 And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence.

### **Gentiles and Israel are one through Jesus Christ**

Eph 2:11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders by birth. You were called "the uncircumcised ones" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.

Eph 2:12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from God's people, Israel, and you did not know the promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

Eph 2:13 But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:14 For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us.

Eph 2:15 By his death he ended the whole system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. His purpose was to make peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new person from the two groups.

Eph 2:16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

Eph 2:17 He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and to us Jews who were near.

Eph 2:18 Now all of us, both Jews and Gentiles, may come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

### **We all belong to Gods Family**

Eph 2:19 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.

Eph 2:20 We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

Eph 2:21 We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

Eph 2:22 Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

### **Gods secret plan**

Eph 3:3 As I briefly mentioned earlier in this letter, God himself revealed his secret plan to me.

Eph 3:4 As you read what I have written, you will understand what I know about this plan regarding Christ.

Eph 3:5 God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now he has revealed it by the Holy Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets.

Eph 3:6 And this is the secret plan: The Gentiles have an equal share with the Jews in all the riches inherited by God's children. Both groups have believed the Good News, and both are part of the same body and enjoy together the promise of blessings through Christ Jesus.

Eph 3:7 By God's special favor and mighty power, I have been given the wonderful privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.

Eph 3:8 Just think! Though I did nothing to deserve it, and though I am the least deserving Christian there is, I was chosen for this special joy of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.

Eph 3:9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

*What a gift from God we all received !*