

# **The Third Race**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 2:19-22.
- B. The Jews were close to God, but the Gentiles were far off during Paul's time.
- C. Both were separated from God and needed to take that step.

## II. In Christ both the Jew and the Gentile are made one.

- A. The feeling that "we are right, and they are wrong" polarizes people.
- B. There are tremendous advantages and resources for those who are Christians.
- C. If one understands who he is in Christ, he will have resources to deal with life.

## III. The advantages of being in Christ.

- A. Paul gives three figures to portray the riches in Christ: family, kingdom, and building.
- B. The non-believer was once a stranger--he did not know much about Christ--but now he has come close to Christ.
- C. The believer is no longer a stranger, but...
  - 1. Fellow-citizens with the saints. This means we are members of another kingdom, which comes with certain responsibilities and privileges.
    - a. Divine protection
    - b. An inheritance with the saints.
    - c. Access to the King Himself.
  - 2. Members of the household of God.
    - a. Believers belong to God's own intimate family.
    - b. We have access to a Father who has tremendous power.
  - 3. Part of a building.
    - a. Everything is knit together in a building.
    - b. The building becomes an intimate organic habitation for God.

c. We rest upon the faith and teaching of the Apostles, but Christ is the chief cornerstone that ties everything together.

d. God chisels us and shapes us within a group of other people in order to build a temple.

**Application questions:**

1. Which of Paul's metaphors for the church stands out to you personally? Why?

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2. How would you respond to a Christian who says that it is good enough to stay at home Sundays and watch a church service on television?

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3. How does the forming of the church out of Jews and Gentiles that were hostile towards each other picture the surprising unity that is supposed to be found therein? What would a modern equivalent of this union be?

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