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Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- Paul reinforces the fact that as kingdom community citizens, we are the offspring, creation, or workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works.
- Christ himself overcomes the failure and dismissal of the first Adam by his disobedience.
- The curse that the first Adam set into motion through sin was indeed reversed through the power of the last Adam, Jesus.

Ephesians 2:11

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

- Gentiles is a word used to identify anyone who is not born into Kingdom Community. Gentiles were also those who worshipped other gods and made no allegiance to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- In the Old Testament, circumcision was the ritual that identified those in covenant with God. This cutting away of the male foreskin was the initiation into the community.
- In the New Testament, we learn of spiritual circumcision or better known as the circumcision of the heart.

Colossians 2:10-12

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Romans 2:29 - 3:1

2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

3:1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

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- Paul reveals that the natural circumcision of the flesh has no power to transform one spiritually. In the Old Testament, it was a physical sign, brand, logo, that identified one who has a covenant with God.
 - Jesus gives us the benefit of the circumcision of the heart by the spirit of God. It is clear that kingdom citizens are born of the seed of God.
 - The new birth is a spiritual one but the nature of Christ in us is followed up by our willingness to be identified with him through water baptism.

Ephesians 2:12-14

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

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- Paul further states that the boundary, wall, partition, and enmity between God and man are destroyed through the fact that Jesus has reconciled us to God.
 - The stigma and identity of our past has been demolished by the work of Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross. Therefore, we have peace with God and have our identity in him.

Ephesians 2:15-17

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

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- In order to reconcile mankind, Jesus had to destroy the law of commandments contained in practices that had no benefit to the eternal life of those who had been alienated from him.
 - He eliminated unnecessary rituals such as the offering up of animal sacrifices, feast days, circumcision, and dress attire.
 - We have peace with God; he is not our enemy; he desires to bless and empower his community.

Ephesians 2:18-20

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Hebrews 8:10-13

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

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- Paul declares that we have access, this means that we have the liberty, rights, the permission to approach and to freely communicate.
 - We have access to God's provision, protection, and power. We are connected by his blood.
 - To know the Lord does not require permission from others but gives us the divine right to receive his mercy. Our sins have been forgiven and we have a new and better covenant.