

# Reconciled By the Cross

A large, weathered stone cross stands on the edge of a dark, rocky cliff. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical stem extending down into the darkness and its horizontal arms extending across the cliff's edge. On the left horizontal arm, a small figure of a person stands, looking out over a vast, open landscape. The sky is filled with dramatic, white and grey clouds, with a hint of a sunset or sunrise glow. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

Ephesians 2:11-18

# Reagan at Berlin Wall 1987



“Tear down this wall”

# Berlin Wall ended 1989



# Jews and Gentiles separation

**JEWS**



**GENTILES**

Dividing Wall of Separation

## Remember what we were..

- **Eph 2: 11-12** Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup> that at that time you 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.

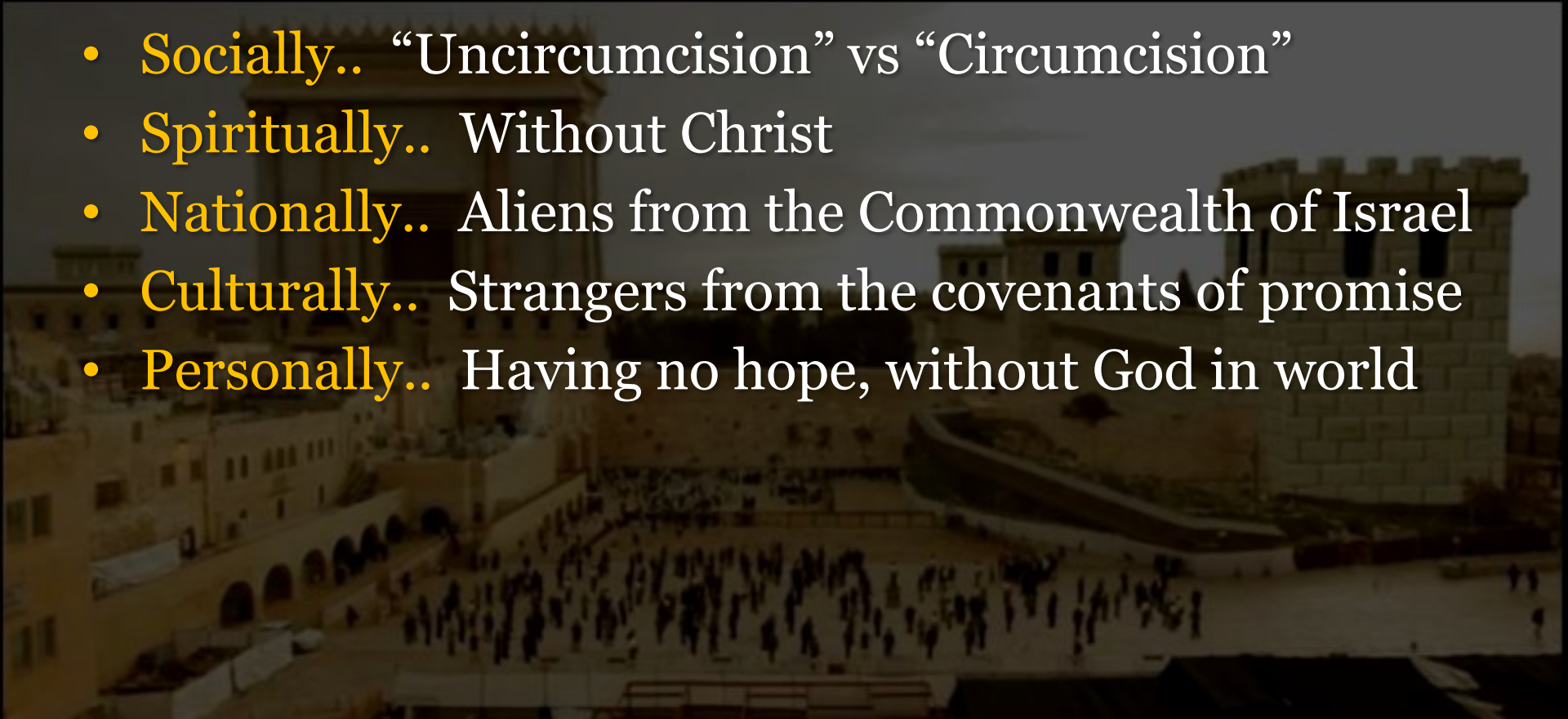
# Sin Separates us from God



Sin also separates us from each other..

# Remember what we were..

- **Socially..** “Uncircumcision” vs “Circumcision”
- **Spiritually..** Without Christ
- **Nationally..** Aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel
- **Culturally..** Strangers from the covenants of promise
- **Personally..** Having no hope, without God in world



# What We are Now..

- **Once we were far off.. Now we are near..**
  - **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- **Once we were separated.. Now we are united..**
  - **14** For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,





# What We are Now..

- **Once we were two men.. Now we are one..**
  - 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,
- **Once we were excluded.. Now we are admitted..**
  - 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

# Reconciled By the Cross

A large, weathered stone cross stands on the edge of a cliff. The cross is made of dark, textured stone. On the left horizontal arm of the cross, a small figure of a person in dark clothing stands looking out over a vast, dark landscape. The sky is filled with dramatic, white and grey clouds, with some light breaking through. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Ephesians 2:11-18

