

# Family TableTalk

Conversation 06

## Brought Near by the Blood of Christ

read

*Ephesians 2:12-13*

think

More than a month into quarantine, we find ourselves longing for in-person connection. We are missing sports seasons, birthday parties, prom, and youth group. Maybe at this point you're even missing getting up to go to school in the morning! Our feelings of sadness and isolation are very real.

But this ache for meaningful connection is not entirely new. Our sad human story is that people rejected God and His ways, leading to the first "stay-at-home" order in the Garden of Eden. As a result of sin, human beings were sent away from the place of God's loving presence into a place of loneliness and isolation from Him (Gen. 3:23-24).

In Ephesians 2, Paul reminds the churches throughout Asia that they were "separate from Christ," and especially so—because they were Gentiles, non-Jews who hadn't yet trusted in the God of Israel. Then Paul reminds these new Christians of God's grace to them in Jesus: "But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

The Good News of the gospel is that God intends to dwell with His people once again! For those who are "in Christ Jesus," there is no more separation, no more isolation. Jesus has come near to us, taking on human flesh and shedding his blood to bring us near to God. Because of his life, death, and Resurrection, we are no longer "without hope and without God in the world!"

In the rest of Paul's letter, he will explain that as Christ has reconciled us to God, we are also reconciled to one another in His family. During this time of being isolated from one another physically, our hope is in Christ, who has brought us spiritually near to God and to one another.

apply

- Can you think of some ways you have experienced God's nearness in the past?
- How could you grow in your relationship with Him this week?
- How could you safely reach out to encourage others in the family of God or to share the Good News of God's grace with those who haven't trusted in Him?

pray

Our God, You do not distance yourself from us. Thank You for sending Jesus to live and die and rise again in our place so that we could be brought near to You. Help us to know Your presence with us in this lonely time, and give us creativity to draw near to others in new ways.

### by Chelsea Kingston Erickson

Chelsea Kingston Erickson serves as Pastor of Youth and Families at First Congregational Church in Hamilton, MA, where she lives with her husband, Steve. She holds an M.Div from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She loves teaching the arc of redemptive history and is currently pursuing a Master of Theology (Th.M.) in Old Testament Studies at Gordon-Conwell. She is a contributing writer and editor at [Rooted](#) and has also written for The Gospel Coalition.

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