

"Death is a bad concept. I don't want to be told that our achievements live after us. I want to live forever. Unfortunately, termination comes too early just as you're getting warmed up." (Bob Carr: Former NSW Premier; Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs)

Death is not a concept. Romans 5:12

Death separates the body from the spirit.
 Death separates people from their family.
 Sin separates God and sinful humanity.
 Sin divides people and races and nations.

Jesus is God's solution:

[he will] *bring unity to all things* in heaven and on earth under Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

To be redeemed - face reality (Eph 2:1-3)

Dead and dominated – 'objects of wrath'

BUT GOD - great love, rich mercy and incomparable grace – brings salvation.

2:4 Alive 2:6 Raised 2:6 Seated

2:8 Faith: complete distrust in our efforts and wholly relying on God's promise.

2:10 God's Poetry

Alienation - Reconciliation - Incorporation

2:10 Good Works

2:11-13

2:14-18

2:19-22

ALIENATION:

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ... (Ephesians 2:13).

RECONCILIATION:

He himself is our peace...made the two groups one... destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility (Eph 2:14).

INCORPORATION:

No longer foreigners and strangers...fellow citizens...his household...building joined together...holy temple (2:19-22).

The church is under construction.

A new people - a new humanity.

Fitted together harmoniously.

Foundation: holy worship by the Spirit.

End of spiritual and social alienation.

Why is it so difficult to belong?

God's answer to alienated individuals is Jesus.
 God's answer to fragmented society is the Church.