

Oakland International Fellowship Calvin Chiang

# Romans 11:11-24 Handout

The Principles of Belonging

## God’s Plan for Israel (Romans 11:11-15)

## *11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. 12 Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! 13 But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. 15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

\*God has a greater purpose in allowing Israel to reject Him.

1. The transgression of Israel rejecting Christ has caused the gospel to be preached to the Gentiles. (v.11)
2. Paul states that with the Gentiles experiencing salvation, God’s grace, joy, power, blessings, and changed lives, it will provoke Israel to look again at the gospel.
3. The result when Israel realizes that they need to come back to the God, will result in “life from the dead” (v.15)

**2. The Gentiles Engrafted onto Israel’s Olive Tree (Romans 11:16-19)**

***16 If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.***

***17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”***

\*Two Illustrations (Lump of Dough and Olive Root) (v.16-17)

1. First illustration of the dough is drawn from OT (Num 15:19-21). God asked the Israelites to offer the first part of the harvest to the Lord and if He accepted it, it meant the whole meal was sanctified. (v.16)
2. The original faith of the Israelites (ie. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) is good and holy and acceptable to God. There is a special relationship between Israel and God.
3. 2nd illustration talks about some branches being broken off (v.17). The branches here represent the Israelites because of rejection of Christ and therefore not part of the covenant because of their disobedience.
4. Because of the rich root, the wild olive (Gentiles) is able to be grafted into the olive tree and thrives and flourishes. Every believer is now part of the Jewish heritage.

**3. Changed Lives and Attitudes (Romans 11:20-24)**

***20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; 21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?***

\*Take Away Lessons (v.20-24)

1. There is only one people of God. There are not Jewish or Gentile believers, just believers. When we come to Christ our nationalities are no longer significant. (There may be different branches, but only one root)
2. People of God are expected to produce fruit. Genuine believers will produce fruit. The believer starts to change the way they live, the way they think, the way they treat others.

***Jesus said, I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. (John 15:5,6)***

1. Salvation is by grace alone. We have contributed nothing to the salvation process. Guard yourself against spiritual pride. (v.20-21)

1. Israel is not done yet. The remnant is eventually going to yield a fresh and great harvest. (v.23-24)
2. The importance of personal faith.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. God has shown us through Paul that human unbelief and sin cannot thwart God’s great purpose for humanity. How is this both a comfort (Acts 4:27-28) and a danger (Rom 3:8)?
2. Why is it foolish for Christians today to feel superior to non-Christians? Can you list some examples of spiritual pride that we should guard against?