



Ephesians: "The Walls Come Tumbling Down"

7th March 2010

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Text: Ephesians 2:11-22

Main Point: Through the gospel of Jesus Christ, God brings bitterly-divided and hostile people together in peace, harmony and unity.

Key Ideas:

1. A Picture of Alienated Humanity
 - The Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God; they were "far off".
 - The Jews were God's chosen, covenant people, marked out by circumcision and by having received God's Law through Moses.
 - This spiritual distinction caused the Jews to have a superiority complex over the Gentiles and sparked mutual hatred of the other.
2. A Picture of a Peace-Making Christ.
 - Through his death, Christ breaks down the dividing walls that caused the hostility.
3. A Picture of God's New Society.
 - Christ removes the enmity, but also brings the two hostile parties together as one, in peace, harmony and unity, as His church.

Application Questions

1. How does Paul point to Jesus as the solution to alienation from God (v.1-10) and alienation from others (v. 11-22)?
2. Paul uses language such as "one new man" and "being joined together." Why do these phrases carry such massive relational significance in the church?
3. In what ways are you tempted to separate yourself from other believers? How can you proactively counter this sinful tendency?
4. What boundaries might God be calling you to cross, for the unity of the church, the sake of the gospel, and the glory of God?
5. How can you take steps in the coming weeks to grow in affection for those who are different? How can you take an interest in them?