

Ephesians: Tearing Down the Wall

Ephesians 2:11-22

Separation (v. 11-12)

- Paul first addresses his Gentile audience
- Before Jesus, they:
 - Had no relationship to Christ
 - Weren't part of God's people
 - Weren't part of God's covenant & promises
 - Were without hope
 - Were without God
- They/we were separated from God

Tearing Down (v. 13-18)

- But Jesus' sacrifice changed all that (v. 13)
- Jesus tears down separation
 - The Wall of Hostility: An actual wall in the Temple courts dividing the court of Israel from the court of the Gentiles
 - "No *foreigner* is to enter within the partition wall and enclosure around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will be responsible to himself for his death, which will ensue."
- He tears down the division between Jew & Gentile
 - To make something new
 - There is no difference anymore
 - Both come to God through Jesus
- He reconciles us to Himself and to one another
 - Bringing us peace

Building Something New (v. 19-22)

- Jesus tears down the old so that a new Temple might be built up
- The Church is the new Temple
 - Not a building
 - But God's people, both Jew and Gentile
- We are the dwelling place of His Spirit (1 Cor 3:16)

So What?

- Jesus offers us peace with God & with one another
- So that we might be a community where Christ's Spirit dwells for the glory of God
- Do we know Jesus?
- Are we dwelling in that unity?

Meditation Verse: Ephesians 2:22