

Tearing Down the Walls

Ephesians 2:11-22

**Therefore remember that at one time you
Gentiles in the flesh, called “the
uncircumcision” by what is called the
circumcision, which is made in the flesh by
hands— 12 remember that you were at that
time separated from Christ, alienated from
the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to
the covenants of promise, having no hope
and without God in the world.**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**19 So then you are no longer strangers and
aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the
saints and members of the household of
God, 20 built on the foundation of the
apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself
being the cornerstone,**

21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1. The Problem: The Walls of Man

“41 Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake 42 (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, 43 hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.”

-1 Kings 8:41-43

“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

-Isaiah 56:6-7

“The tragedy is that Israel forgot her vocation, twisted her privilege into favoritism and ended by heartily despising—even detesting—the heathen as ‘dogs’

-John Stott

1. The Problem: The Walls of Man
2. The Solution: Jesus Tears Down the Walls

1. The Problem: The Walls of Man
2. The Solution: Jesus Tears Down the Walls
3. The Result: The Church with no Walls

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

-Revelation 22:18-19

