

**“Without Walls”**  
**October 7, 2018**

**Ephesians 2:14-22**

**CORE- Jesus destroyed walls—barriers that keep us from God and from one another.**

**1. WHY ARE THERE WALLS?**

- a. **SIN- always destroys relationships.** [When there were only 2 people on the earth—purity of heart united them. But sin (and shame and fear) divided them. Adam went from, *“Bone of my bones. Flesh of my flesh (i.e., we have so much in common). You are ‘woman.’ (Ishah- ‘out from me, yet equal beside me’)”* to *“This woman You gave me!”*
- b. **PRIDE- in superiority—sees others as inferior.** [Pride says, “I don’t need you. I am/we are fine on our own.”] **Pride leads to JUDGMENTS** that move us to marginalize and de-personalize others. (i.e., the derogatory term- *“uncircumcised” v. 11*)
- c. **FEAR- afraid of people who are different (i.e., people you can’t control)** Causing us to see people in their worst light—freeze-framing them in their worst behavior. **Katagorizo—“to accuse; limit to a category; void of faith-filled redemptive vision”**
- d. **OFFENSE—BITTERNESS- defiles many; for generations.** Racism between Jews and Gentiles started with the rift between Sarah and Hagar (Isaac and Ishmael).
- e. **ULTIMATELY A WORK OF THE ENEMY to “cause division” (divide the house; divide the kingdom) (Matthew 12:22-24).** **RACISM** is one of the *“spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world” (Eph. 6:12 GOD’s WORD Translation)*

**Matthew 24:7-8- “Nation (ethnos) will rise against nation (ethnos).”**

*(At the time of this letter, Gentiles in Caesarea killed 1,000s of Jewish residents; Jews then attacked other cities; then Syria killed 1,000s of Jews- Josephus, “Jewish Wars”)*

**Yet, the LORD is “the Trust and Hope of all the earth” Who can “still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples.” (Psalm 65:5-7).**

**2. JESUS DESTROYED ETHNIC WALLS**

**“The barrier; the dividing wall of hostility”-** in the temple stood a 4-foot tall barrier between the “Court of the Gentiles” and the “Court of Israel.” Archeologists recovered a sign that read (in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin): *“No uncircumcised foreigner may enter this barricade which surrounds this sanctuary. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.”*

Jesus “**destroyed**” (to loose from every attachment; to completely dissolve) “**the barrier**” (phragmos—‘fragment’)--*that which prevents two from coming together.*

**“He Himself is our peace...His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two (Jew & Gentile) and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the Cross by which He put to death their hostility!” (Eph. 2:14-16)**

- **“One new man”**—connecting, interacting, contributing, receiving, coordinating, moving together with.
- **This is the heart of Abraham’s covenant: Genesis 12:3- “All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.”**
- Israel’s “**rejection**” of Jesus as Messiah opened the door for Gentiles to be reconciled to God—so Israel’s “**acceptance**” of Jesus as Messiah will cause a global revival, described as “**life from the dead!**” Romans 11:15

### **3. JESUS DESTROYED THE SPIRITUAL WALL**

**“Through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.” (Eph. 2:18)**

- **“ACCESS”- ushered into the presence—so that the person we meet becomes extremely personal to us**
- **“JOINING TOGETHER and RISING TO BECOME A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD” go hand-in-hand.** It’s time for us to stop allowing “minor infestations” to prevent a MAJOR MANIFESTATION of God’s presence on the earth!
- **Together we become “a holy temple in the Lord” (v. 21). Naos—“the Holy of Holies”** There, in His PRESENCE we SEE ONE ANOTHER THROUGH HIS EYES!
  - Instead of living as “complainers-about-everything-that’s-wrong-in-the-world”—we become “**a house of prayer for all nations (ethnos).**” Mark 11:17
  - “Remember, you do not ever look into the eyes of someone whom God does not love.” Havilah Cunnington
  - “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.” C.S. Lewis

**“This entire building is under construction and is continually growing under his supervision until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord himself.”<sup>22</sup> This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, his dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you!”**  
Ephesians 2:21-22 TPT