



Tear Down the Walls

Connect Group Discussion Guide

Elements is about taking the foundational doctrines of the church, making them personal, and understanding how they enhance our relationship with God.

- Circle Time: In his teaching, Jon taught us that the gospel message challenges the cultural, economic, political, and even religious structures of the day. How have you seen this to be true for each of these?
 - What are some cultural structures that the gospel challenges? How are they challenged?
 - What are some economic structures that the gospel challenges? How are they challenged?
 - What are some political structures that the gospel challenges (**Do NOT make this republican vs. democrat in your answer**)? How are they challenged?
 - What are some religious structures that the gospel challenges? How are they challenged?
- Read Ephesians 2:11-22.
 - In this passage Paul basically tells his audience that they were once split into two different people... Some of people were Jews and some people were Gentiles. Now they are all Christian! Why do you think this is such a radical thought for his readers to try and grasp?
 - Specifically Paul is writing The Greek word for “uncircumcised” was a derogatory term that the Jews used against the gentiles. Why would this make the last question even more difficult to grasp?
 - Paul teaches that Jesus “broke down the wall of hostility between them”. That he literally destroyed the barrier of hatred that divided the two groups. Knowing what you know about human nature and history, do you think this was completely true?
 - What are some examples that you can think of today of Christians allowing divisions between them and another group of people?
 - These days you’re either a snowflake (liberal) or a racist (conservative). These titles are often assigned *before* the title “Christian”. Why do you think that is?
 - Do you think the previous statement is true? Why are why not?
- Respond to this statement: *“Despite lingering uncertainties, Paul’s point is clear enough: The coming of Christ and his death inaugurated a new order, making salvation equally accessible to Jews and Gentiles.”*
 - In what ways do modern day Christians uphold this truth in our actions towards the world.
 - In what ways do modern day Christians betray this truth in our actions towards the world.
- What are some practical actions you take to break down “dividing walls” between Christians?
- What are some practical actions you take to break down “dividing walls” between the church and the world?