



DESTROYING BARRIERS

Ephesians 2:11-22

OPENING QUESTION: Based upon your church experience, what have been some reasons for divisions or disagreements within the church?

- 1 Read Ephesians 2:12. What 5 phrases describe the condition of the Gentiles before they were saved? What is the significance of each phrase?

- 2 As Paul describes the Gentiles new status “in Christ Jesus” in verse 13, what is significant about the phrase “the blood of Christ”?

- 3 How would first-century Jews and Gentiles have understood verse 14 when it says that Jesus has broken down “the dividing wall of hostility”?

- 4 According to verse 15, what did Christ abolish?
 - What did He create?

- 5 Why is the concept of reconciliation so central to the Christian faith?

- 6 Consider the words of verses 19-21 as if they were written specifically to you today. What comfort or hope do you take away from these verses?

- 7 Pastor Paul emphasized that verse 22 is written in such a way as to suggest a continuing and on-going activity. What significance does that have for the church today?

APPLY IT: Prayerfully consider any attitudes or actions on your part that contribute to divisions within the church. Ask God to make you sensitive to barriers to unity of which you may be guilty of erecting.