

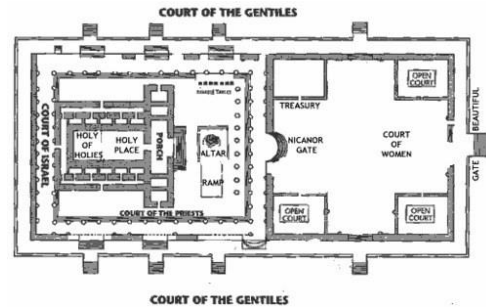
What I love about Paul and especially this letter is Paul never writes theology for the sake of theology. He writes in response to real people in real situations. And the beauty of all scripture is that when Paul writes something for the context of first century church we can find an application and purpose in his writing for 21<sup>st</sup> Century church in the greater Indy area.

Last week we discovered that all of us are, from birth, dead in our sin, God because of his grace and mercy, through the death of Jesus on the cross, makes us alive in him. But Christianity is not just about what God does individually – there is a corporate aspect – the Church – the body of Christ. We will see parallels to our individual blessing with a whole new set of implications for this new Body of Christ!

### 1. Sin Separates

Vs. 12, "remember that you were at that time separate from Chris, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

William Barclay, "The Jew had an immense contempt for the Gentile. The Gentiles, said the Jews were created by God to be fuel for the fires of hell. God, they said, love only Israel of all the nations that he had made."



### 2. Christ Unites

v. 14, "For He himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the dividing wall of hostility."

- Abolished the Law of commandments contained in ordinances – v.15
- Created one new man in Himself – v.15
- Reconciled them both in body to God – v.16

### 3. Church is Alive

Vs 19-22, "no longer strangers...are fellow citizens...growing into a holy temple in the Lord"

Implications for Eagle

1. Barriers are down – don't build new ones
2. Christianity is corporate focused – not individual
3. Grace to see all in the image of God