

## **EPHESIANS 2:14-18 THE DIVIDING WALL IS BROKEN**

There was a division in the ancient world between Jews and Gentiles. Before people like these Ephesians who were Gentiles could ever become members in the church, God had to do something with this division. This is the section that shows how God did that. In this section Paul wants to give us more details of how that worked.

### **1. HUMAN ALIENATION 2:14**

#### **A. ORIGINAL SEPARATION BY GOD**

Isa 5:1-7

#### **B. THE WALL IN THE TEMPLE COURTYARDS**

In Paul's mind there was a great physical emblem of alienation in the wall that surrounded the inner courtyards of the Temple in Jerusalem, dividing them from the outermost courtyard, called the Court of Gentiles. This was the Temple built by Herod the Great. Much of it was overlaid with gold and it was the glory of Israel. It sat on a platform, known today as the Temple Mount. The Temple was surrounded by courts. The innermost court was the Court of the priests. The next court was the court of Israel. Only Jewish males could go there. After that was the Court of the Women. All these courts were on the same level. There were great differences between them, but the greatest of all was the Court of the Gentiles. There was a big wall that separated the courts for the Jews from the Gentiles. Josephus recorded that there were stone inscriptions warning that no foreigner was permitted to enter the Jewish enclosures upon penalty of death. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his death which follows. It is like—Trespassers will be killed. No wall was so impassable as the wall between Jew and Gentile. Court of the Gentiles—Mark 11:17, Paul knew the hostility—Acts 21:27-36

### **2. ALIENATION FROM GOD 2:15**

#### **A. THE GREATEST BARRIER OF ALL**

This wall was not outside the Jewish courtyards, but within the Temple itself. Within the Temple separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was the great veil that was 6 inches thick to seal off the inner Temple, where the Ark of the Covenant was in the Tabernacle. The Inner Veil of the Holies

#### **B. CAUSE OF THE ALIENATION**

Enmity with God—the true meaning of sin  
Root cause of enmity—sin---the pride of man Man sets himself up as God.  
Everything revolves around himself.  
Sin just doesn't separate, it causes enmity with others and God.  
Because we are at enmity with God, we have enmity with people.

### **3. PEACE WITH GOD 2:15-17**

#### **A. THE GOD OF PEACE**

He, Himself, is our peace.

Heb 13:20, Isa 9:6, Genesis 49:10-Shiloh What is Shiloh? Luke 2:14

#### **B. HE MAKES PEACE**

1. Broke down the middle wall
2. Abolished law of commandments  
(Katargeo)—make of no effect, invalidate  
Ceremonial rituals—the law about burnt offerings, and sacrifices and  
Meal offerings such as found in Leviticus.  
The Jews used this middle wall of partition for hate. This was not God's  
intentions.  
Christ broke down the middle wall of partition.

C. ONE NEW MAN

New Creation---The new man---is the church  
It is something like when immigrants came from all over Europe to America.  
They were finished with their old ties and came together as one nation.

D. RECONCILIATION

(Apokatallaso)

1. Change from hostile to friendly relationship
2. Really bringing together again
3. Emphasises the completeness of the action
4. Kata-come down from above—One of the parties takes action
5. Restoration of something that was before

Colossians 1:20-21-----related to Rom 5:10, 2 Cor 5:18-20

Mediator—only one-1 Tim 2:5

E. PREACHED (Euangellizo)

The Gospel is to be preached to all. Jesus held the message out to all.  
All need this message of peace.

Luke 4:18, 1 Tim 3:16

Christ through the apostles—Acts 1:1

Isa 57:19-20-----Peace is the need for all men but not all men want it.

Man is never satisfied and is turbulent, restless.

**4. ACCESS TO THE FATHER 2:18**

A. RECONCILIATION IS NOT THE END

B. ACCESS (Prosagoge)

This should be staggering to us. We should be lost in wonder of this.

The veil was ripped. Mt 27:51

It drops for those who are in Christ. If we are in Christ there can never  
be a barrier between us and others who are also in Christ. Peace has been  
restored.

Heb 10:19, 1 Pet 3:18, Rom 5:2, Eph 3:12

C. FATHER

Christ has removed the barriers and the obstacles. He has slain the enmity.

Reconciliation is amazing and wonderful but even better is to converse  
with the Father. We go into the presence of the Father. 1 Pet 3:18 says  
that Christ suffered the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.

John 4:23, 14:6, 17:23, 1 John 1:3

D. SPIRIT

We come to the Father by one Spirit. It is through the Spirit.

We don't pray to the Virgin Mary or to the saints. That is called supererogation.

That is to have an overflow of righteousness so they can give a little bit to us.