

Summary

This sermon from Ephesians 2:11-22 explores how Christ has broken down the dividing walls between Jews and Gentiles, creating one unified body of believers. Paul reminds the Ephesian Gentiles that they were once separated from God's covenant people, without hope and without God in the world. However, through Christ's sacrifice, the hostility and division represented by the temple's physical walls has been abolished. Christ has created one new humanity from both groups, making peace and reconciling all believers to God as equal members of His household. The church is being built together as a dwelling place for God, where all believers - regardless of background, race, or status - have the same complete and perfect standing before God. This unity serves as a witness to the world of God's peace and hope.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for Your Word and the truth it reveals about our unity in Christ. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us through this discussion. Help us to set aside any preconceived notions or barriers that might prevent us from fully embracing Your message of peace and reconciliation. May Your Spirit guide our conversation and draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one wall or barrier in your home that you wish you could tear down (literally or figuratively)?

Key Verses

1. Ephesians 2:11-22
2. Ephesians 2:14
3. Ephesians 2:19

Questions

1. What does it mean to you personally that you are no longer a 'stranger and alien' but a 'fellow citizen with the saints'?
2. How do you see modern-day 'dividing walls' in our churches or communities that Christ wants to tear down?
3. The sermon mentions that we were created to 'reflect God's image into creation.' How does this change your perspective on your daily purpose?
4. Paul addresses the hostility between Jews and Gentiles. What groups or types of people do you find it hardest to show Christ's love toward?

5. How does understanding that all believers have 'the same complete perfect status with God' challenge any feelings of inadequacy you might have?
6. The pastor said 'You cannot be a Christian and be divisive.' How do we balance standing for truth while still promoting unity?
7. What does it mean practically for the church to be 'a dwelling place for God' in our community?
8. How can we as a small group help tear down walls and create the kind of unity Christ desires?

Life Application

This week, identify one person or group of people you've been keeping at a distance due to differences in background, beliefs, or past hurts. Take one concrete step toward building a bridge - whether that's having a conversation, offering help, or simply praying for them with a heart open to reconciliation.

Key Takeaways

1. Christ has broken down all dividing walls between believers, creating one unified body regardless of background or status
2. We were created to reflect God's image into creation, bringing life and light wherever we go
3. All believers have equal standing in God's household - no one is a second-class citizen in God's kingdom
4. The church serves as God's dwelling place on earth and a witness of His peace to the world
5. True peace comes through unity, not division, and Christians are called to be agents of reconciliation

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for tearing down the walls that separated us from You and from each other. Help us to live as true members of Your household, treating all believers as equal heirs of Your kingdom. Give us the courage to tear down any walls we've built in our own hearts and relationships. Make us instruments of Your peace and unity in our families, church, and community. May we reflect Your image faithfully into the world around us, bringing hope and life wherever we go. We commit to being part of Your dwelling place on earth. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.