



## Overcoming What Separates Us Ephesians 2:11-18

### Identify issues that separate us from God and others. Ephesians 2:11-12

- **Relationship based on performance, behavior or class.**  
Circumcision vs. uncircumcision performed in the flesh  
Galatians 3:3; 5:6; 6:15; Acts 15:1-2
- **Relationship that lacks the true spiritual leader**  
Separate from Christ  
John 4:7-9, 27, 39; Romans 5:8
- **Relationships biased by racial, gender or ethnic background**  
Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel  
Galatians 3:26-28; Acts 10:9-16, 28
- **Relationship without God's promises and direction**  
Strangers to the covenants of promise  
Genesis 12; James 2:1-13; Joshua 1:5-8 Hebrews 13:5-8
- **Relationships with emotional despair**  
No hope  
Romans 5:3-5
- **Relationship that is spiritually empty and directionless**  
Without God

### *Why do you think some people have conflicts between each other?*

### Apply solutions that heal and help your relationship with God and others.

Ephesians 2:13-22

- **Draw near to Christ to find healthy peace in your own life.** (v.13)  
*"But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."*  
Colossians 3:11; John 14:27; John 16:33
- **Reach out to others by removing false obstacles and unrealistic expectations that separate us.** (v. 14-15)  
*"by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances"*  
Colossians 2:14, 21-23; Acts 10-11; Galatians 3:26-28
- **Let Christ change you and your relationships to find peace with others and God.** (v. 16-18)  
*"and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near."*

Reconcile

## Digging Deeper:

One of the problems Paul is addressing is the need for unity between the Jew and Gentile. There was a great divide in the culture of that day. The Greeks believed they were the superior people and all others were barbarians. Read Romans 1:14 and Colossians 3:11 to see the divided cultures. Also the Greek language was considered the language of the gods. Cicero wrote, "As the Greeks say, 'All men are divided into two classes, Greeks and barbarians.'" Also, the Jews disregarded the Gentiles. A good example is found in Acts 10, 11 where God is changing Peter through a vision and the visit of a Gentile named Cornelius. God wants Peter, a Jew, to now accept Gentiles like Cornelius. Peter acknowledges that change in Acts 10:28: "And he said to them, 'You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.'" God is changing the hearts and minds of His Jewish and Gentile believers so they remove any "walls" that separate them and learn to live in unity as one body in Christ.

## LifeGroup Discussion:

1. As you consider the people in your life, are there some that you find difficult to be with or be united with? Have there been times of conflict with others? If so, what are some reasons for any difficulty or conflict?
2. The church at Corinth had disunity and conflict. What reason does Paul address that causes conflicts in relationships in I Corinthians 3:1-4? Have you experienced that in your life? Can you describe it?
3. Jesus came into this world to bring us peace. Peace in our hearts and relationships.
4. What did Jesus promise regarding peace in John 14:27 and John 16:33? How have you experience those things in your life?
5. When Jesus is in your life, you view other people differently and can find peace with them as well.
6. How should we view people according to Galatians 3:26-29?
7. Sometimes we judge people or even reject them based on social or economic status. What does James 2:1-13 teach on how to treat people of different social or economic status? What should we avoid in James 2:1-4? What should we pursue in James 2:5-13? When has this been a challenge in your life?
8. Another reason some judge or reject another is based on past sins or wounds from that person. What does Paul say we should do someone that has sinned or hurt us in II Corinthians 2:5-11? Why does he teach us to do those difficult things according to verse 11? When has this been a challenge in your life?
9. Remember what Jesus came to accomplish in our lives according to Ephesians 2:16-18? How is He accomplishing that in your life?

## Next Steps:

1. Consider coming on the **Calvary to Turkey Trip** to visit and learn about the region of the world where the book of Ephesians was written. For more information, visit the lobby table today or [calvarylife.org/turkey](http://calvarylife.org/turkey)
2. **Calvary Goes To Dinner:** Sunday, November 8 at 5:30 pm  
People from your church family are opening up their homes across Orange County for a special night to experience community. Come share a meal, meet someone new from your church community, and experience life together around the table. Sign up online at [calvarylife.org](http://calvarylife.org) or in the lobby today.