



Coming Together Ephesians 2:11-18

Separation: There has always been a struggle between the insiders and the outsiders (v.11-12)

"Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands..." Ephesians 2:11 (cf. Colossians 2:11)

- **The outsiders were without Christ** (cf. Romans 9:5)
"...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ..." Ephesians 2:12
- **The outsiders were without citizenship** (cf. Ephesians 2:19-22; Philippians 3:20)
"...excluded from the commonwealth of Israel..." Ephesians 2:12
- **The outsiders were without covenants** (cf. Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14ff; 15:1ff; 17:1ff; 22:15ff)
"...and strangers to the covenants of promise..." Ephesians 2:12
- **The outsiders were without hope** (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
"...having no hope..." Ephesians 2:12
- **The outsiders were without God** (cf. Acts 17:16-23)
"...having no hope and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:12

Who are the insiders and the outsiders in the church today? In Calvary Church today?

Reconciliation: Jesus came to tear down walls that have been built up (v.13-18)

"But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:13

- **The wall between Jews and Gentiles (v.13-15)** (cf. Acts 10,11,15)
Jesus came to break down walls we have with one another.
"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall..." Ephesians 2:14
 - **How did Jesus do this?**
*"...by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might **make the two into one new man**, thus establishing peace..." (v.15)*
- **The wall between sinners and God (v.16-18)**
Jesus came to break down walls we have with God.
"...and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity..." Ephesians 2:16
 - **How did Jesus do this?**
"...and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. (v.16-18)

*** Discussion: Where is reconciliation needed for you? Where is reconciliation needed for Calvary?**

Digging Deeper: Jesus' Ministry of Peace + Reconciliation

One of the names of Jesus is "Sar Shalom" or "Prince of Peace." Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah says He will bring peace to the world. "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace.**" (Isaiah 9:6) In the gospel of Luke he states that after Jesus' birth, the sky in Bethlehem was full of a choir of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, **and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.**" (Luke 2:14) In our passage today, Paul tells the church, "**He is our peace.**" (Ephesians 2:14)

Although our sin alienates and separates us from God, Jesus has reconciled us with His death on the cross, thereby bringing us into a state of peace regarding our relationship with the Father. Peace with God produces peace with others and peace within ourselves. Remember that while in English "peace" basically means an absence of conflict or a sense of rest, the Hebrew word "shalom" has much richer and extensive meaning. Shalom expresses "wholeness, completeness, finished word, perfection, safety or wellness." Jesus does not just give peace; HE IS peace! He is the Source of all peace. Consider this: when Jesus extended peace to a person, to a home, to a town, He was offering himself. As Jesus calmed the raging wind and waves to be still, He was extending His very nature to impact the nature He had created! When we feel stressed, fearful, distraught and we ask Him for peace...we are asking for more of HIM. And He is faithful to answer!

Where are the places in your life that you need Jesus, Sar Shalom, to bring peace? Use some of these passages in prayer this week to call upon the Prince of Peace in your life to seek healing, restoration and reconciliation.

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. (John 14:27)

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19-20)

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9)

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What are the perceived walls that surround churches?
2. What walls have you been outside of, looking in? Have you built walls?
3. What are some groups you can move toward and help tear down the walls?
4. Have you accepted the truth of the gospel that you now have access to God? Are these things true for you? Have the walls been torn down for you? Are you taking advantage of the sacrifice?
5. Is the wall down and you not crossed the border? Are you talking about the fact that the wall is down and how great it is but not taking advantage of it?

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
2. **Calvary Goes To Dinner:** Sunday, November 8 | 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 or in the lobby today.