

**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**Ephesians Part 2—Tear Down Walls**  
**1.17.2021**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[Ephesians 2:1-7]**

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

***The Apostle Paul pointed out there are only two kingdoms: you're either serving Christ or following the devil; culture has tried to create a really wide third option.***

**[Ephesians 2:3]**

All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

***God can be both loving and angry. He can be gracious and just.***

**[Ephesians 2:4-5]**

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.

**[Ephesians 2:5-7]**

It is only by God's grace that you have been saved! For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

**[Ephesians 2:8-10]**

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

**[Ephesians 2:11]**

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.

**[Ephesians 2:12-13]**

12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God,

but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

**[Ephesian's 2:14-16]**

For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

***Sin separates, but Christ unites.***

**Enmity:** a feeling or condition of hostility; hatred; ill will; animosity; antagonism.

**“Segregation is a blatant denial of the unity which we all have in Christ Jesus.”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

**[James 3:16]**

For wherever envy and strife are, there is confusion and every evil work.

**envy / “zelos”** = contentious rivalry, fierceness in defending anything

**strife / “eritheia”** = contention, division, a partisan and fractious spirit

***There has been a door opened for envy and strife, and it has crept into the church. Disunity is a repellent to the precious spirit of God.***

## **HOW TO TEAR DOWN WALLS—**

### **1. Guard unity.**

#### **[Ephesians 4:3]**

Make every effort to (guard the unity) keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

**“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

### **2. Treasure the anointing.**

#### **[Psalm 133:1-2]**

How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore

(“**bestowed blessing**” = continual presence and favor)

***The Anointing moves freely in an atmosphere of unity.***

#### **[Psalm 133:17-18]**

He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

## FOR MONDAY—

1. Recognize any envy and strife that is happening in your circle, and ask for heavenly wisdom to bring unity instead.
2. Pray John 17, that “we would be one just as God is one.”

## TALK IT THROUGH

1. What do you think of cultural phrases like: “follow your heart,” “if it’s meant to be,” or “you do you”? What kind of habits result from living by cultural lies? How do we combat them?
2. The Bible says we were “dead in our sin.” What “dead things” are trying to pull you back into the grave? Who can help you spot those and turn toward freedom instead?
3. What is the larger predetermined story into which you have been invited?
4. Read Ephesians 2.1-7. Describe the massive third option that our culture has tried to create. How does it differ from the two kingdoms Paul describes?
5. What gifts and spiritual authority has God given you? What would it look like for you to step into that?
6. In what areas, might we be rebuilding walls of hostility (racial, political, spiritual, etc.) that Christ has already torn down? Which walls have been How can we practically partner with Christ in tearing them down?
7. Recall God’s faithfulness: What walls has He broken down for you? How can we continue to surrender our lives to Him?
8. How do you guard unity and walk in a spirit of humility? What can you practically do this week?
9. How do you treasure the anointing? What blessings does He bestow in the unity of the Body?
10. Pray for unity in our nation and among the believers.