**The Barrier Is Gone**

Ephesians 2:11-22 12/16/2018

We are humans and more than that, we are sinful and selfish humans. As a result, we are good at drawing lines and building walls between who we consider “us” and who we consider “them”.

Jesus came on a mission of peace to break down barriers that separate us from God and from each other.

1. Sin is the great wall builder
   1. Sin builds walls between us and God
   2. Sin builds walls between us and others
      1. Sin causes us to focus on ourselves
      2. Sin causes us to promote ourselves
      3. Sin causes us to elevate ourselves
      4. Sin causes us to isolate ourselves
      5. Sin causes us to barricade ourselves

*“For Jews, God was holy. Separate. Unapproachable. He lived behind a curtain. His love was reserved for his covenant people.”* (Andy Stanley)

*“For centuries, the ‘circumcision’ (Jews) had looked down on the ‘uncircumcision’ (Gentiles) with an attitude God had never intended them to display…*God separated the Jews from the Gentiles that He might be able to save the Gentiles also.” (Wiersbe)

*“Israel was called to be a vessel through which the knowledge of God would be spread to the entire world. Unfortunately, Israel never fulfilled that calling. She preferred to condemn the Gentiles rather than witness to them.”* (MacArthur)

1. Jesus is the great wall breaker
   1. Jesus breaks walls between us and God
   2. Jesus breaks walls between us and others (they had theirs and we have ours)
      1. Before Abraham there was one group known as humans
      2. Since Abraham there were two groups: Jews and Gentiles
      3. Since Jesus there are three groups: Jews, Gentiles and the Church (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Race and national distinctions vanish in Christ. If all men were really in Christ, war would disappear…Christ is the peace-maker between men, nations, races, classes.[[1]](#footnote-1)

So What?

* Jesus came to bring peace to us
* Jesus came to be peace in us
* Jesus came to spread peace through us

1. Robertson, A. T. (1933). [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/rwp?ref=Bible.Eph2.15&off=1411&ctx=one+can+it+be+done.+~Christ+is+the+peace-) (Eph 2:15). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)