

Breaking down Walls

READ: EPHESIANS 2:14-16

¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵He 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. ¹⁶Together 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.

REFLECT:

What does it say that Jesus did in verse 14?

How did Jesus do this?

There was much division and conflict between the Jewish people and the Gentiles (non- Jews). For one thing the Jewish people thought that everyone needed to follow the same laws they had always followed, while those who were not Jewish didn't think they should be required to follow those laws. After all, no one could follow the law perfectly. That is the whole reason Jesus had to die on the cross. Now the wall that separated us from God was broken down.

Jesus died for all ethnicities, whether they were a Jew or a Gentile, and regardless of the color of their skin. As Christians we are to show love to others because God has shown that love to us (see 1 John 4:19). We need to follow the example of Jesus and care for those who are hurting, stand up for those who are unlawfully harmed, and listen to others so we can understand their needs. Just as Jesus broke down the walls of hostility, we also need to consider how we can break down the walls of current day hostility towards those who don't look like and sound like us. It starts with prayer.

RESPOND:

Thank Jesus for His death on the cross that breaks down the walls of hostility toward God so we could become children of God.

Pray that God will open your eyes on how you can break down walls of hostility in your neighborhood, workplace, and surrounding community.

Pray for those in your community that don't look like or sound like you and ask God how you can be the hands and feet of Jesus to others.

Pray for peace, protection and justice for those who need it the most in our nation and this world.