

Sermon Notes

Themes from Ephesians

“Breaking Down the Wall in Order to Build a New Temple” – Ephesians 2:11-22

I. Introduction

- A. What it feels like to be an alien.
- B. Where alienation begins?

II. Exposition – Breaking down the walls of separation.

A. Ephesians 2:11-13

- 1. Jews and gentiles
- 2. “Alienated” could be rendered “excluded.”
- 3. Brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - a. The New Testament is always about a_____.

B. Ephesians 2:14

- 1. Noting the courts of the Temple in Jesus’ day.
 - a. Court of Priests
 - b. Court of Israel
 - c. Court of Women
 - d. Court of Gentiles
 - 1. The furthest from the center.
 - 2. Josephus – the Jewish historian

C. Ephesians 2:15-16

- 1. Noting the Holy of Holies
 - a. The entire inner and outer court system that divided people was designed to show the gentiles’ fundamental alienation.

D. Ephesians 2:17-18

- 1. Alienation from God – Matthew 27:51

- 2. Referring back to verse 16
 - a. “Reconcile” (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)
- 3. Now there are only Christians.

III. Closer look at the new humanity.

A. Ephesians 2:19-22

- 1. Verse 19
 - a. The ultimate place of belonging (Boice).
- 2. Verse 20
 - a. The “Helper” always directs us to the foundation of what Jesus taught as expounded by the Apostles.
 - 1. John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13-15
 - b. Note further that Jesus is the cornerstone.
 - 1. Matthew 21:42; I Peter 2:6-8
 - c. Living Stones – note connection to I Peter 2:5
- 3. Verse 21
 - a. The new temple is us!
 - b. We are all being personally crafted into the temple of God.
 - 1. I Kings 6:7

IV. Points for Reflection

- A. We were alienated from God and one another, but now we have a place of belonging.
- B. The place of belonging has come to us by making us as cut stones to be added to the Holy Temple of God which is the church.
- C. There is neither Jew nor gentile. Only Christians – people who have submitted to Jesus’ lordship and received forgiveness in Him.
- D. The presence of the Lord now encamps within each of us, but even more when we assemble together.