

Ephesians 2

Sermon date 10/26/2025

Ice breaker

- 1) If your high school cafeteria was divided into “groups,” which group did you sit with and how would you feel sitting at a different table? Or was there another table you wanted to be at?

Unpack It

What stood out to you from Sunday’s sermon and why? What was a takeaway or something that left you wondering about?

Looking Back

The city of Ephesus, a major Roman commercial center in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), was a melting pot of cultures and religions. When Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians—most likely from prison in Rome around 60-62 AD, the early church was grappling with its new identity. Gentile (non-Jewish) converts were flooding into what had started as a primarily Jewish movement. Tensions rose as questions emerged: Should Gentile believers keep Jewish laws? Were they second-class citizens in the Kingdom of God? Ephesians 2 addresses this head-on, particularly in verses 11–22, where Paul proclaims that Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles, creating one new humanity in Himself.

Paul uses temple imagery that would have been deeply familiar to both Jews and Gentiles. In the Jerusalem temple, a literal wall separated Gentiles from entering the inner courts, a physical and spiritual boundary. By saying Jesus “destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,” Paul is declaring that in Christ, the temple system and its exclusions have been fulfilled and abolished. Everyone, regardless of background, has equal access to God. This was revolutionary, not only religiously but socially, uniting previously opposed groups into one family.

Diving In

Read together: Ephesians 2

Diving Deeper

- 1) What differences stand out to you in how Paul describes life before Christ (vv.1–3) versus after (vv.4–10)?
- 2) What does Paul mean by “the dividing wall of hostility” in verse 14, and how does Jesus break it down?

- 3) How might Jewish believers have felt about this teaching? How about Gentile believers? What tensions would this raise in a church community? How does this play out with our culture today if at all?
- 4) Where in your life have you experienced Jesus bringing peace between people who were once divided?
- 5) Are there walls—social, political, personal—you’ve built or encountered that God might be calling you to tear down?
- 6) What’s one way you can extend unity or inclusion to someone who feels like an outsider this week?

Closing It Out

- 7) Suggested prayer time together to close out: Pray for unity in our families and country.