

## “The Dividing Wall of Hostility Brought Down”

Ephesians 2:13-18

### **SIN BRINGS SEPARATION**

#### **1. Separation between God and man.**

- Separation began in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:22-24
- Separation was demonstrated in the OT ceremonial laws. Leviticus ch. 1-27  
-“Be holy because I am holy.” Lev. 11:44-45
- Spiritual separation because of our sin and therefore conflict and hostility. John 3:19; Colossians 1:21

#### **2. Separation between people.**

- Conflict between Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, etc...
- Separation into different people groups, languages, and cultures. Tower of Babel. Genesis 11:1-9
- Separation between Jews and Gentiles. The people of God—and those who are not.
- Separation because of our sinful natures: rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, jealousy, etc. Gal. 5:19-21

### **THE TEMPLE A PICTURE OF ACCESS TO GOD**

#### **1. The architectural design of the Temple was a pattern of the separation between God and man (b/c of sin).**

- The construction of the Temple consisted of multiple layers of coverings, walls, and curtains.
- The layout of the Temple communicated boundaries, requirements, and limited access to God's presence.
- The veil at the entrance to the Holy of Holies was considered a 'screen' or 'shield.' Ex 39:34; 40:21

#### **2. The architectural design of the Temple was a pattern of the separation between people (b/c of sin).**

- The Temple precincts were divided into Courts (or areas)
  - The Court of the Gentiles (open to Jews and non-Jews)
  - The Court of the Women (open Jewish men and women)
  - The Court of Israel (open to Jewish men only)
  - The Court of the Priests (open only to the Jewish priests)
  - The Holy of Holies (open only to one man, the high priest, once a year on the Day of Atonement)

#### **3. The architectural purpose of the Temple was to demonstrate a way to have access to God.**

- There was a way to have access to God—if you were part of God's people and only through the high priest.

### **JESUS CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

#### **1. Jesus made peace. v.15 (on the cross)**

- The purpose of the Temple was to point to the work of Jesus Christ to accomplish our access to God.
- When Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the Temple was torn in two. Mt 27:50-54; Mk 15:37-39; Lk 23:44-46
  - The torn veil shows that the 'spiritual' veil that separated man from God was removed by Jesus Christ.
  - The fact that it was torn from top to bottom shows that it was God who accomplished this—not man.
- Jesus' death on the cross opened “the way” to God and “the way” to each other.

→ The Dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles ended with Jesus' death on the cross.

#### **2. Jesus preached peace. v.17**

#### **3. Jesus is our peace. v.14**