

“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