

LESSON 3

TEARING DOWN THE WALLS

EPHESIANS 2:11—3:21



1 What kinds of barriers separate people in our society? How can social barriers be removed?



Read Ephesians 2:11—3:21 and the following notes:

- ☐ 2:11–13 ☐ 2:11–16 ☐ 2:14ff ☐ 2:14–22 ☐ 2:19–22 ☐ 3:5, 6 ☐ 3:7
☐ 3:14, 15 ☐ 3:17–19

2 What wall divided us from God? How did Christ remove it?

3 What does *reconcile* mean?

4 Why does everyone need to be reconciled to God? How can this happen?

5 How can people be reconciled to each other?

6 Given God's willingness to accept us into his family, how should this affect our relationships with other believers? with unbelievers?



Although no one wants to admit it, all of us harbor prejudices—we find it difficult to accept certain kinds of people. So we cut ourselves off from them. But Christ came to reconcile us to God and to each other. The church isn't a social club where only those of similar interests, personality, and social standing are found. It is God's one, united family. Through Christ, God has torn down every wall that might separate us from him or from each other.

7 In what ways can it be costly to try to bring people together?



8 What benefits and privileges come with being reconciled to God?

9 What groups of people may find it difficult to be accepted in your church? How could you make them feel more comfortable and accepted?

10 Why do Christians sometimes make certain people feel that they are not welcome in the church?



11 Who is an outsider at your church? What could you do to help that person experience God's reconciling love?

12 What first step toward that person could you take this week?

A What do the terms *uncircumcised* and *circumcision* refer to (2:11)? Who would be in those groups in your church?

B What special revelation was given to Paul in order to help him understand God's plan more fully? How does God reveal his will to us?

C Why does Paul refer to God's plan as a secret (3:2–13)? To whom is God's plan still a secret? Who needs to know what this secret is all about? How can you tell them?

D How are we built on a foundation of the apostles and prophets (2:20)? How does this relate to your church?

E How is the body of Christ like the temple (2:21, 22)? How does God live in this dwelling?

F How could Paul's suffering encourage the Ephesian believers (3:13)? How can our suffering help others? How can it glorify Christ?

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