

ONE NEW HUMANITY

Christ Tears Down the Wall and Builds One Dwelling Place

KEY PASSAGE Ephesians 2:11–22

Purpose: To remember our former alienation, celebrate Christ’s reconciling work, and live as one people being built together into God’s dwelling place.

I. The Command to Remember | Ephesians 2:11–13

- **Remember the former distance:** Gentiles were once alienated, excluded from the covenants of promise, without hope, and without God in the world.
- **Memory that produces gratitude:** Remembering past struggle is not meant to trap us in shame, but to deepen gratitude for what God has done in Christ.
- **God’s purpose for the nations:** Genesis 12, Exodus 19, and Isaiah 42 show that Israel’s calling was always connected to God’s blessing and light reaching all nations.
- **The decisive change:** Those who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

II. Tearing Down the Wall | Ephesians 2:14–18

- **Christ Himself is our peace:** Peace is not merely an ideal or negotiated truce. It is established in and through Jesus Christ.
- **The dividing wall is destroyed:** Like the Berlin Wall, the “dividing wall of hostility” represents separation that Christ’s sacrifice has overcome.
- **One new humanity:** Christ does not merely bring two hostile groups into the same room. He creates a new, unified people in Himself.
- **Reconciled through the cross:** Jew and Gentile are reconciled both to God and to one another through Christ’s death, replacing hostility with peace and shared access to the Father.

III. The Church as God’s Dwelling Place | Ephesians 2:19–22

- **No longer strangers:** Believers are fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.
- **Built on a sure foundation:** The apostles and prophets form the foundation, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.
- **The new temple:** The church is being joined and built together into a holy temple, a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- **God’s Plan A:** The church is not a backup strategy. It is God’s appointed community for displaying reconciliation, unity, and His presence in the world.

KEY TRUTH In Christ, those who were far away are brought near, hostile divisions are torn down, and believers are built together as God’s dwelling place.

Discussion Questions

Use these questions to guide a one-hour conversation and move from understanding to practice.

1. Reflecting on the Past

Stacy began by noting how remembering past struggles can lead to present gratitude. How does reflecting on your life “before Christ” increase your appreciation for the community you have in the church today?

2. Unpacking the “Dividing Wall”

The sermon mentions that laws and ordinances were once used to create distance. In what subtle ways do modern Christians sometimes build “walls of hostility” that unintentionally alienate others from the church? What walls do Christians sometimes crawl back over to seek community and fulfillment outside of the church?

3. God’s Plan A

Paul speaks of the (1) the blood, (2) the Law, and (3) the Temple in this passage. These were institutions and symbols that taught God’s intentions that were fulfilled in Christ.

- a. How did the blood of Christ fulfill God’s teaching intention in sacrifice? Consider Lev. 17:11.
- b. How did the life of Christ fulfill God’s teaching intention in the Law? Consider Gal. 5:13, 14.
- c. How does the church fulfill God’s teaching intention in the temple? Consider Eph. 2:19-23.

Christians sometimes treat the church as an event to attend or something to fit into the schedule. How does God view his church?

4. Living Out Unity

Paul describes us as being “built together” into a dwelling place for God. If our local church is truly a spiritual temple, how should that change the way we interact with each other on a Sunday morning or during the week?

Personal Application

Identify one “wall in the head” that may still shape the proclivities toward the world you left to enter the church. What concrete step will you take this week to practice Christ-shaped wall demolition?

CLOSING PRAYER Thank Christ for bringing the far-off near and making peace through the cross. Ask the Spirit to expose lingering walls, strengthen your commitment to the church, and build your congregation together as a dwelling place for God.

Filename: Eph.2
Directory: C:\Users\Stacy Abernathy\Desktop\Ephesians Series
Template: C:\Users\Stacy
Abernathy\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dotm
Title: One New Humanity: Ephesians 2:11–22 Bible Study Guide
Subject: Editable Bible study discussion guide
Author: Stacy Abernathy
Keywords:
Comments: generated by python-docx
Creation Date: 9/28/2026 9:31:00 AM
Change Number: 2
Last Saved On: 9/28/2026 9:31:00 AM
Last Saved By: Stacy Abernathy
Total Editing Time: 7 Minutes
Last Printed On: 9/28/2026 9:31:00 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 789 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 4,500 (approx.)