



A STUDY OF EPHESIANS

**Time for the Walls to Come Down
February 13 & 14, 2010**

**Ephesians 2:11-22
Speaker: Pastor Laurence East**

Spend some time in prayer and worship as a group. Share your week and commit one another to prayer – pray specifically for unity among you.

Talk about the 'walls' in your life – those things you have erected that separate you from all that God has for you.

Under the first covenant given to Moses it was necessary for the males to be circumcised in order to demonstrate that the nation of Israel were set apart from other nations as being God's chosen people. Gentiles (non Jews) were known as the "uncircumcised", which became a metaphor for those peoples "outside" of God's promises. How do you think the Jewish and the Gentile believers would have responded when hearing Paul's words in verses 2: 11-12?

How was the blood of Jesus able to bring together those who were "formerly far off" (v13) What does that mean for you in your circumstances – in your story?

Why is the reference to the "blood of Jesus" so important? How does the blood of Christ unify the two groups (Jews/Gentiles)?

According to v15-16, what did Christ seek to abolish on the Cross? Why is that so significant to us?

Prior to Christ, the nation of Israel had the title of 'God's chosen people', how did that change after Christ's death? How are we the embodiment of this new truth?

V 19-22: Paul explains that we (all believers, both Jew and Gentile) are now "member's of God's household". What is the foundation of this household according to verse 20?

God unveiled his master plan of bringing together mankind into a living relationship with himself as a community of believers – the Church. In verses 21-22 Paul explains that we are being built into a "holy temple", together as a people, a place where he dwells by his Spirit. Why is the Church so significant to God? What makes a church?



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God unveiled his master plan of bringing together mankind into a living relationship with himself as a community of believers – the Church. In verses 21-22 Paul explains that we are being built into a "holy temple", together as a people, a place where he dwells by his Spirit. Why is the Church so significant to God? What makes a church?

What did Paul mean that we are "growing into a holy temple in the Lord"? How can we live this out in our daily lives?

What should "guests" experience and see if they were to sit amongst us as we gather as the Church on weekends?

How important is unity in the body? Why can disunity be destructive? What can we do to counter the forces that seek to separate and break down the unity God wants us to demonstrate to those around us? Why can it be hard sometimes to resolve issues of conflict amongst fellow believers? Why is it imperative that we do so?

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