

05/15/2009

Say Yes to God: Growing Deeper in God's Grace  
*"A Church Without Walls"*  
Ephesians 2:11-22

**THE BIG IDEA:**

We live in a world that is divided by walls. There are walls that separate us according to ethnicity, race and gender. There are walls between liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans, rich and poor. More often than we wish, there are walls separating us from those we love the most. One of Jesus Christ's primary purposes is to break down all the walls separating human beings from one another. God's vision for the church is that it would be a place where the walls that often separate us from one another will be torn down. God's vision is for a church without walls.

**OPEN WITH PRAYER**

**GETTING STARTED**

1. What country did your ancestors come from?

**LEARNING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD**

**Together, read Ephesians 2:11-22**

2. What verse, to you, seems to sum up the meaning of this entire passage? Why?
3. Read verses 2:8-10. How are these verses related to verses 11-22?
4. How does Paul describe the gentiles in verse 12?
5. What did Jesus do to change all of this? (verses 13-18)
6. What does Paul mean when he refers to Christ as our peace?
7. Steve said that unity in Christ is possible because of our common experience grace and our new identity in Christ. How does our experience of God's grace affect our relationships with others? How does our new identity in Christ help to break down walls?

**LIVING OUT "REAL LIFE"**

1. Our church is diverse. What are some potential walls that could divide us? Are there any potential walls that could divide your small group?
2. Why is unity within diversity so important?

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3. What steps can you take you to help your small group and our church fulfill God's vision of a church without walls?

## THE EXTRA MILE

Spend some time this week praying about your attitudes toward those in the church with whom you are different. Ask God to show you if you need an "attitude adjustment" to help you deal with prejudice or racism or any other wall that you may have built. Then ask God to empower you to tear down that wall.

## SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God's hope and the power of the Resurrection through one another. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another needs. There you find the power of God.