

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—

<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

<sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

<sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:11-22 (NASB) "The law with its detailed ordinances of ceremonies and regulations about the clean and the unclean had the effect of imposing a barrier and of causing enmity between Jews and Gentiles. Indeed also the moral law broken by all people left all condemned and alienated. Jesus abolished both the regulations of the ceremonial law and the condemnation of the moral law"

Foulkes, F. (1989). Ephesians: an introduction and commentary

## HOW DID THE LAW SEPARATE JEWS AND GENTILES? WHAT DOCTRINES SEPARATE CHRISTIANS TODAY?

Notes:

## WHAT WERE THE CULTURAL BARRIERS BETWEEN JEWS AND GENTILES? WHAT ABOUT CHRISTIANS TODAY?

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.
<sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.
<sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. Ephesians 4:1-4

## Community Group Questions:

- 1. What is your most important takeaway from this story?
- 2. What does it mean that Christ killed hostility on the cross?
- 3. What do you think it means to be united in Christ?