

## Ephesians 2: Barrier Breakers

April 11th, 2021 by Kasey Crawford

**Today's Passages:** Ephesians 2:1-22

Last time in Ephesians 2 we looked at the glorious news that even when we were "dead in sin"... "BUT GOD" with the "great love with which he has loved us", saved us and made us beloved children. This is "a gift from God, not by works, so no one can boast." (**Ephesians 2:1-9**)

But then Paul immediately Paul says, we are saved for good works. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

We are not saved \_\_\_\_ works, but we are saved \_\_\_\_\_ good works.

In eternity past, when God designed you, He had specific, intentional ways that He designed you to reflect His goodness in the world; "good things" you were created to do.

**"that we should walk/live in them."**

These "good things" are just part of the new way of walking/living in Christ.

Paul then turns their attention to one very specific "good thing" that is part of their new way of walking/living: being a barrier breaker

### 3 aspects of being a barrier breaker

1. *We see ourselves as ambassadors of reconciliation, with the \_\_\_\_\_ to see walls come down, because it's God's \_\_\_\_\_.*

We should not be ok with walls of hostility, because God is not ok with walls of hostility. Jesus was on the cross to break down walls of hostility.

**For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...that he might create in himself one new humanity... Eph 2:13-16**

The ancient divisions and walls of hostility have been torn down by his blood on the cross in order to create one new humanity in Christ.

2. *We are honest and realistic about the pervasive nature of sin and the ancient walls of hostility that \_\_\_\_\_.*

Karl Marx and his en vogue peddlers contribute nothing more than poetic observations of sin and offer "solutions" that result in vicious cycles of envy, hate, vengeance and violence, as history has proven again and again.

3. *The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are the solution to achieving unity as one new humanity.*

**"might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility." Ephesians 2:16**

At the feet of the cross is where humanity must unite: where we are all completely equal before God; broken, fallen, sinful, yet wildly loved, seen, forgiven, accepted.

Our primary identity begins at the cross and builds on the cornerstone. **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.**

**Eph 2:20-21**

The cross bids us \_\_\_\_\_ to come and die and the cornerstone invites us to come alive again, building life \_\_\_\_\_ on the foundation of Christ alone.

**Responding to God...**

What do you think God is saying to you today?

What are you going to do about it?