



DRAW NEAR:

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- ▶ Have you ever felt distant from God & others?
- ▶ POINT: Your identity in Christ gives you access to intimacy. Jesus came to break down the walls; We are called into nearness – to God & others. (context – who we are in Christ; death to life)

DRAW NEAR:

- ▶ Ephesians 2:11-18, “Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (which is done in the body by human hands) – remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel

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- ▶ Ephesians 2:11-18, “and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier,

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- ▶ Ephesians 2:11-18, “the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

DRAW NEAR:

- ▶ Ephesians 2:11-18, “He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”
- ▶ POINT: We are called into nearness – to God & others.

DRAW NEAR:

- ▶ **In order to draw near, we must overcome the barriers.** The plight of the Gentiles - former exclusion (v.11-12, “Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (which is done in the body by human hands)” (circumcision – pride for Jew, scorn for Gentile)

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- ▶ **In order to draw near, we must overcome the barriers.** The plight of the Gentiles - former exclusion (v.11-12, “remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.”) (5 fold missing out) (track self-talk) (no 2nd class citizens)

DRAW NEAR:

- ▶ **It is through the blood of Christ that we can draw near to God & others.** (v. 13, “But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”)
- ▶ The significance of blood (for remission of sins; wages of sin is death; cleansed, paid in full; satisfied the demands of justice – unjust judge)

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- ▶ **It is through the blood of Christ that we can draw near to God & others.**
- ▶ Jesus created peace between people. (v. 14-15, “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.”) (temple courts; Mosaic law)

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- ▶ **It is through the blood of Christ that we can draw near to God & others.**
- ▶ Jesus created peace between people.
(Josephus – 13 stone inscriptions warning Gentiles not to enter under penalty of death)
For all who are in Christ, there are no fences, walls or barriers that should prevent unity. (die with no enemies)

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- ▶ **It is through the blood of Christ that we can draw near to God & others.**
- ▶ Jesus created peace between people. (v.15, “His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”) (metaphor: body of Christ)

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- ▶ **It is through the blood of Christ that we can draw near to God & others.**
- ▶ Jesus created peace between us and God. (v.17-18, “He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”) (museums – secret places; access denied; access granted)