

## Discussion Questions

### “Walls”—Ephesians 2:11-22

(If you had to pick one person or group to describe as your greatest enemy, who would you pick and why?)

- What sorts of feelings stir inside of you when you think of your enemies?
- Why do you think God tolerates hostility from His enemies?
- Do you think the church has tried to protect God from His enemies and in the process made more enemies?

It's quite innate in us to build walls for protection & out of fear. Yet, God doesn't seem to try to protect Himself from His enemies like that.

- Why do you think that is?
- Do you think God ever takes sides? Explain.

In the story of the battle of Jericho, it might appear that God is on the side of the Israelites, yet, do you remember what the Commander of God's army said to Joshua on the plains of Jericho when Joshua asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" The God-man said, "No." And yet He was dressed for battle.

- If He wasn't taking sides, who or what do you think He was fighting?

We often like to think that we are on God's side or God is on ours but what if God is fighting so that there would be no sides?

- How do you feel about the idea of there being no sides?
- Can you think of a passage in the OT that seems quite violent, maybe even unfair to you?

Read it carefully and I think you'll discover it is wrath upon wrath, hostility upon hostility; it is violence upon violence—in the service of love. In a garden, we made a covenant with death, and the rest of Scripture is...the story of the death of death, that is, the story of life and the story of grace, that is, the story of Jesus, Prince of Peace. —P.H.

Ephesians 2:14-16:

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two....*

Grace is eternal fire that never ends. And there is no greater violence upon evil than grace. And nothing offends evil people as much as grace. But in the end, grace destroys evil and liberates people from the evil. Jesus kills the hostility... —P.H.

- Can you think of areas in your life where God might be pouring out His grace on you but you have experienced it as hostility? Thank God for His abundant Grace and invite Him to open your eyes to relentless love of His eternal fire.

\* These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen