

- **Message Notes - Last week**

Ephesians 2:11-22 **ACCEPTANCE**

Acceptance: "The willingness to accept somebody as a member of a group or a social circle. An offer to allow somebody to join an organization or attend an institution.

- **Accepted By Father God**

The world has been brought near the Father by Jesus. Those who choose Him experience acceptance. *"Don't forget you used to be **outsiders** by birth ...You were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you were far away from God, now you **have been brought near** through the life's blood of Christ."* 2:11-14

- **Breaking Down The Walls Of Rejection.** In the first days of the church the wall was between Jewish Christians and non-Jewish Christians. The Jews put up the walls—they felt they had a monopoly on God. The Lord's purpose is "no" walls of any kind, anywhere among his children. *"For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us."* 2:14

- **Inside the Same Walls**

Every Christian lives inside the walls of God's place and presence. Every friend of Jesus is a citizen of the eternal Kingdom of heaven. Every Christian of every nationality, race, or position is part of God's family. God's way of enabling us to be comfortable with each other and accept each other is to gather us all into his place and say—behold your brother—behold your sister!

- A radical reality. God's house, God's dwelling place, God's temple is now us -- the individual Christian and in more glorious ways in the gathering of Christians.

"So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. We are his house. We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord,...this dwelling place where God lives by His Spirit." 2:19-23