



DO FOR ONE

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Matt VanCleave

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is one goal you would like to accomplish in your lifetime?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will speak out for those who can't speak for themselves.
- I will seek righteousness and justice for others.
- I will work to love my neighbors as myself.
- I will pray about my response to the oppressed in our society.
- I will ask God what he wants me to do.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Something we're really good at as human beings is building walls. One of the most remarkable things Jesus did when he came to this earth was tear down the walls of hostility that divided people in his community. His community consisted of people who should have been bitter enemies of each other. At the heart of our inability to get along is how we deal with what might be called "otherness" in human beings. Issues of racism, sexism and class conflict are all expressions of our inability to love, the fallenness of the human heart. The first thing racism does is it separates people. And the second thing that racism says is "I'm better than you." When we have this wall-building mentality in ourselves, when we think we're superior, or when we separate ourselves, it's sin. Everyone is made in the image of God, when we demean any person we are demeaning the very God in whose image they were made. God embraces all human beings. Most especially, God announces his embrace to those who, on this earth, are most separated. The force in this universe that wants the wall down, the wall that separates human beings from other human beings, is God. He wants it down badly enough to go to the cross. You and I are called to become agents of reconciliation. You and I are called to tear down the walls that divide us from other people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Galatians 3:26-28. What "walls" are broken down in Christ Jesus? Have you experienced any of those walls in your life?
2. Why would being "one" in Jesus be revolutionary in the time Paul wrote it? Is it still a revolutionary thought today? Why or why not?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

3. Issues of racism, sexism and class conflict are all expressions of our inability to love, the fallenness of the human heart. How can this be overcome?
4. Where might you, or are you living behind “walls” in your life? How can you move beyond those walls?
5. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? What is His image?
6. Read Acts 10. The history of the Jews and Gentiles was that of separation, Discuss Peter’s journey in this chapter from separation from to inclusion of those outside his “group.” What did he need to let go of to in order to end where he did?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:13-19. What do you think being an “agent of reconciliation” means? What could it look like in the world today? What could it look like in your life?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will not separate myself from people who are not like me.
- I will repent for the ways I separate myself from others.
- I will work to tear down the walls of hostility.
- I will cultivate a relationship with someone not like me.
- I will watch/read some of the resources Blue Oaks has provided.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Galatians 3:28
- Acts 10:34
- Ephesians 2:14-16
- Revelation 5:9-10