

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 7 “The New Temple”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament reveal recorded in *Acts*. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of *Revelation*.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. As a reminder the key symbol of evil and demonic in Ephesus was the temple of Diana of the Ephesians. This temple was visible throughout the city and was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.

1. While we know the goddess Diana was nothing, the demonic spirits that empowered idolatry were very real. This is what needed to be defeated in order for people to be set free in Ephesus.
2. Tonight we are going to learn about a new temple God raised up to defeat the demonic spirits that empowered the evil temple of Diana.

II. The New Temple

A. **Ephesians 2:11-18 Jesus Tore Down All The Walls**

1. *Verse 11* - previous condition - people who were far from God (not chosen).
2. *Verse 12* - were alienated (estranged) from God. No covenant of promise.
This is why they were without hope.
3. *Verse 13* - It's the blood of Christ that brings us near; not our performance.
4. *Verse 14* - Jesus doesn't just have peace. He is peace. It's his nature.
 - a. **Middle Wall of partition** - In the temple, there was a physical wall of partition that symbolized this division. The Gentiles could come into a designated area of the temple known as the Court of the Gentiles, but a five-foot stone wall allowed them to go no farther. A sign standing before the wall stated, “No man of another nation is to enter, and whosoever is caught will have himself to blame for his death!” Christ's work on the cross abolished that separation by removing the Law.
 - b. **This is how separate we were. Jesus tore down all our walls!**
5. *Verse 15* - Abolished our enemy? What was it? The law. Jesus abolished or rendered useless the law. He also made one new man (the believer) of the two:

the Jew and the Gentile. **Did it for those who were close to God (Jew) and those who were far (Gentile). Ex: Horse and a donkey make a mule (new creation). God was doing something new with Jews and Gentiles.**

6. **Verse 16** - brought us into agreement with Him and one another.

7. **Verse 17** - Jesus preached peace. peace – eirēnē - probably from a primary verb **eiro** (to *join*); *peace* (literal or figurative); by implication *prosperity* :

a. **Literally the binding together of that which has been separated.**

b. Septuagint - wholeness - nothing missing, nothing broken.

c. **Jesus preached peace to those who were near (the Jews/religious) and those who were far off (the Gentiles/irreligious).**

e. Jesus is the original uniter, not divider!

8. **Verse 18** - It's through Jesus (not our works or background) that we have access to the Father.

B. Ephesians 2:19-23 The New Temple

1. These passages discuss the temple God is building. This temple isn't made of human hands but by the spirit of God - **Isaiah 66:1**.

2. Since Jesus has torn down all the walls that separate us, He can now join each and every one of us with our different callings, personality types, ministry offices, etc. into a new building for the Lord. **ex: Danny Silk Illustration**

3. The New Temple becomes a special habitation of the Lord.

a. Power of unity/worship team example - the more musicians we have pulling together manifests a greater presence (habitation of the Lord).

b. What we learn in the church service is a picture of what it's supposed to look like when we all leave the building and walk in our different gifts, graces, personality types outside the 4 walls. Ex: In here I currently see people who are politically minded, business minded, evangelistic minded, compassion minded, etc. The world is waiting for us to pull together as God's new temple and reveal His glory to meet the needs of humanity.

III. Conclusion - We need to continually receive the grace of God in our lives so we keep out any walls that would separate us from God or one another. We also need to receive God's grace to empower us to live in our destiny so we can fill our place in the New Temple Jesus is building.

A. Say Goodbye to Livestream Audience

B. Pray Closing Prayer

Danny Silk Illustration

Ephesians 4:11 tells us that God has anointed some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers. Silk describes these fivefold anointings in terms of what each might do at the scene of a car accident (see pp.53-55):

The *pastor* applies first aid, dispenses blankets and water. He gathers vital sign information, talks to everyone about their emergency contact details and brings a sense of calm to the situation.

The *teacher* studies the scene to see what caused the accident and what might be done to ensure accidents like this don't happen again. The teacher concludes that drivers would benefit from more training and continuing education requirements.

The *evangelist* asks everyone "If you were to die as a result of your injuries, would you go to Heaven or Hell?" He speaks to the crowd of onlookers: "There are no guarantees that you will make it home safely. Do you know where you would go?" He then leads people to Christ and trains them to lead others.

The *prophet* knew there was going to be an accident because he had a dream about it the previous night. He walks around the crash scene rebuking the spirit of death and calling out the destiny in various people. He discovers who's in charge of the crash scene and discerns whether this is God's chosen leader or not. If he finds no one in charge he will appoint a leader.

The *apostle* releases the healing touch of God into the scene. He tells testimonies of how he has witnessed the power of God at other accident sites. The faith of the listeners rises and they too begin to pray for healing. The apostle starts a school for those who arrive at car accident scenes and sends them all over the world to do signs and wonders.

From Danny Silk