



Crossing the Line
Confront Hatred (Ephesians 2:11-22)
 By Pastor David Hillis, 28 May 2017

BIG IDEA: We stand with God when we lovingly cross lines and confront situations that encourage division and hate.

Paul Confronts Hatred (v11-18; Leviticus 19:33-34, 19:17; Ephesians 2:15-16, 3:6; Acts 21:27-29)

- God's commands in the Old Testament teach us to not treat the foreigner living among us any differently, to love them just as we love ourselves and to confront someone showing hatred or discrimination so that we do not share in that person's guilt.
- Paul reminds us that Jesus' work on the cross destroyed every wall and barrier of hatred once and for all. He broke down all the rules that the Jews had created to justify hating those who were different from them.

Fear and sin still raise barriers. We, as the body of Christ, must be vigilant to not only avoid those pitfalls but to play our part, to use our voices and our God-given abilities to help tear those barriers down, like Paul did.

When we humbly, lovingly, but resolutely stand up to those who cross the line, and we confront hatred, we stand with God.

NEXT STEP:

How is God calling you to confront hatred? How can you use the voice and talents God has given you to stand with God?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. *Reread Ephesians 2, as Paul confronts the wall of hostility and hate and proclaims that Jesus has torn it down with his body on the cross (v. 14). What do you think Paul means by this? What insights from this chapter can you apply to the modern-day hatred you see in the world around you?*
2. *Get a sampling for the hatred of the day from the Bible in John 4 (note vs. 9 & 27); Acts 10 (note v. 28); Acts 11 (note vs. 2,3,8,9,18); and Galatians 2:11-21 (note vs. 11-12). What do you see? How is it different from the prejudice and hatred we see in our culture today? How is it similar?*
3. *Read the story of Paul confronting hatred, and all that happened as a result, in Acts 21-26. What stands out to you about His obedience to God here? Could you have done what Paul did? Why/why not?*
4. *Take a few minutes to watch the videos about racial segregation in the United States, and the modern-day religious hatred in the ISIS videos by Michael Chang in the online sermon notes at [gracetucson.org/bible](http://www.gracetucson.org/bible). Better yet, watch them with a friend or family member and talk about them afterward, discussing what Christ might be asking of you.*

Prayer This Week: Military Personnel

Pray for members and veterans of the armed forces, in our body and community. May God provide protection to all who serve our nation and may the gospel spread through special relationships formed through military life.