

SERMON SERIES: **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **A City With Walls**

TEXTS: Eph 5:3-11; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Rom 12:2 & more!

MESSAGE INTRO: In ancient times, a city wasn't a "real" city unless it had a wall and gates (Lev 25:31; Deut 3:4-5; Ps 122:6-7; Neh 1:1-4; Prov 25:28!)

- ❖ *The wall served to make a city _____ and _____ – to keep enemies and threats out.*
- ❖ *The gates served to make a city _____ and _____ – to let people and goods in and out.*

1. What type of church are we called to be?
 - a. An _____ church? A _____ church?
 - b. Or, a _____ - _____ church!
 - 1) *OPEN to the _____ of the world.*
(Mat 5:14-16; 11:28; 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Lk 19:10)
 - 2) *CLOSED to the _____ of the world.*
(John 15:19; 17:6,11,14-18; James 1:27; 1 Jn 2:15)
2. Jesus' church was designed and established with walls of separation or _____.
 - a. The church, by its very definition (ἐκκλησία, ekklesia), is the Lord's "_____, " "holy," "_____" people. (1 Pet 1:15-16; 2:9)
 - b. The world and the church are growing in opposite _____, and going toward opposite _____. (2 Tim 2:13-14; Mat 7:13-14)

3. Three Biblical boundaries that keep us at a proper distance from the world:
 - a. _____ AL boundaries (Eph 5:3-11; 1 Pet 1:14-16; 2:11-12)
 - 1) _____ *between good and evil, right and wrong* (Eph Rom 12:2; 1 Pet 1:13-16; Heb 4:11-14; 1 Thes 4:3-8; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Cor 2:11; Prov 25:28)
 - 2) *Know what to run _____ and what to run _____!* (1 Tim 6:10-12)
 - b. _____ AL boundaries (2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Eph 5:7,11)
 - 1) *Don't be conformed (influenced) by the world, rather be transformed, an influencer for Jesus!* (Rom 12:2; 1 Pet 4:3-5)
 - 2) *Understand the "tug-of-war," and be honest and wise!* (2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 1 Cor 5:6; 15:33; Gal 6:1)
 - c. _____ AL boundaries (Eph 4:4-6; 2 Tim 4:2-4; 1 Tim 4:6-16)
 - 1) _____ *between truth and error!* (Rom 16:17-20; 2 Cor 11:2-4; Acts 17:11)
 - 2) *Never forget: What we teach and believe and practice _____, eternally!* (Mat 7:13-23; 15:13-14; John 8:31-32)

MESSAGE WRAP-UP: So, in ancient times, a city without walls was no city at all; and today, a church without walls is no church at all!

- ❖ Have you set your boundaries by the _____? Or, by the _____?
- ❖ Are you willing to _____ and _____ your boundaries to where they need to be?