

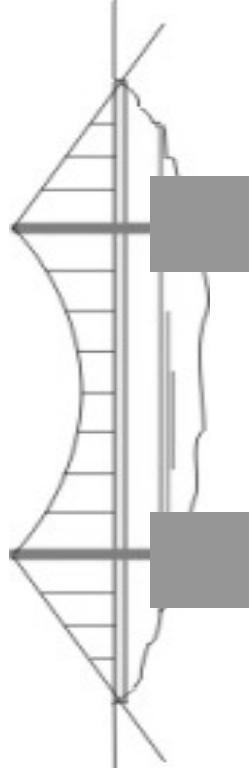
¹⁶Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. ¹⁷He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.
~ Ephesians 2:16-18 (NLT)

All come to God the very same way—through the _____.



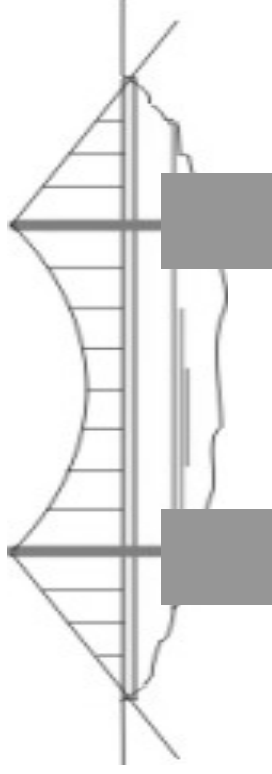
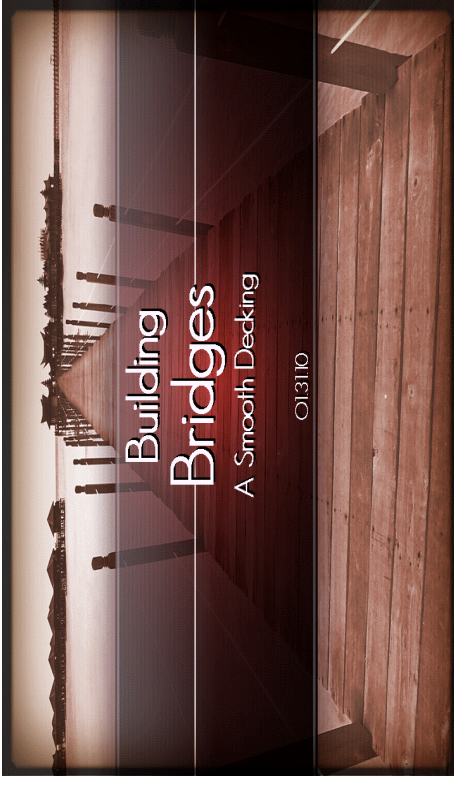
3. You are His _____, built to be the _____ for the Lord.

¹⁹So 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. ²⁰Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²²Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. ~ Ephesians 2:19-22 (NLT)



ONE STANDARD - ONE SOLID DECKING

1. All are dead in _____. But all can be made alive in _____!
2. All are in a _____ (apart from God). But all can become a _____ at His hands!
3. Not all have come into His _____ because they have not been taken to where the _____ can be received. We have to build _____ to that Gift!



What is the decking of a bridge?

The actual _____ that enables people, cars, rails, whatever, to safely cross over obstacles that otherwise impede passage from one place to the next.

“Is our bridge constructed and maintained in such a way that it provides smooth passage for those trying to cross over it? Or are there some major flaws and potholes in this bridge that makes traveling this way one that people avoid?”

What causes “potholes” in Christianity?

A principle, rule, or expectation that is applied unfairly to different groups, one group usually being condemned for the slightest offense, while the other is treated far more leniently.

YOUR SUBSTANCE - WHO YOU ARE

1. You were _____, but now you are _____.

¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. ⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. ⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ~ Ephesians 2:1-9 (NLT)

We used to be...

But now we are...

How?

2. You were a _____, but now you are a _____.

¹⁰For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

¹¹Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹²In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ~ Ephesians 2:10-12 (NLT)

We used to be...

But now we are...

Why?

¹⁴For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. ¹⁷He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. ~ Ephesians 2:14-18 (NLT)



No matter who you are, you can experience "New Life" if you receive the _____ of "New Life" in Jesus! But how?

Those who have been made "_____ in Christ" have to help everyone who is still "_____ in their sins" get to the "_____". ...

Real Life Example

"Hi, I am new to the area and am looking for a church. I was wondering if _____ are accepted in your congregation. I understand if not, I just wondered. I anticipate your answer! Thank you for your time. Respectfully."

How would you respond?

How should you respond?

Our "Pothole" in 2010...