

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

OVERCOMING DIVISIONS FOR DEMOCRACY

Earlier this month in the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar, the military overthrew the democratically elected government and seized control of the country. The nation is normally divided by a wide array of religious, ethnic, and regional factions all fighting the government and sometimes each other. But in demonstrations across Myanmar this month, citizens have set aside their differences to jointly call for the military to reverse its coup. "What is happening right now is not about party politics," said Ke Jung, a youth leader from a remote Indian border area. "It is a fight for the [democratic] system."

OVERCOMING DIVISIONS FOR THE GOSPEL

How odd it must have been for Paul to be speaking not in a synagogue but on a riverbank, and not to Jewish men but to Gentile women. Yet that is the scenario the Apostle encountered in the Roman colony city called Philippi when he taught Lydia and the other women. Yet with the Gospel, God was tearing down the old, man-made divisions so that all the world could be offered salvation in Christ.

1. What divisions—social, economic, political, etc.—have held you back in your life?
2. When have you seen someone cross a boundary to reach out to someone else?
3. What divisions might you dare set aside for the gospel?

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Additional Resources

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Music Video, Traditional: ["I'll Fly Away"](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: ["Holy Spirit" by LaRue Howard and Trinity Anderson](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: ["Fill This House with Your Glory" by InSalvation](#)

[Commentary on Acts 16 by Guzik and JFB](#)

[Commentary on 1 Corinthians 1 by Guzik and Ellicott](#)