

CHRIST, OUR PEACE

(Ephesians 2:14-18)

Can we all just get along? All personal conflicts, family disputes, marital strife, sibling rivalries, church discords, racial tensions and wars between nations beg this question: Can we all just get along? Is true peace possible? Ephesians 2:14-18 provides an affirmative answer. True and abiding peace is possible only through the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our passage presents three reasons why our Lord Jesus alone could give genuine and lasting peace.

1. *Jesus Christ Himself is our* _____.

Our Lord Jesus alone, as the God of peace, is the embodiment, the source and the origin of true peace (Eph. 2:14; Isa. 9:6; John 14:27, 16:33). The peace that Jesus gives is not merely the cessation of hostility but also the establishment of unity and harmony between two estranged parties. In the context of the Ephesian church, our Lord Jesus has broken down the dividing wall of hostility and made both Jews and Gentiles who were previously alienated from one another united together in Christ (Eph. 2:14; Acts 21:27-32). This peace that Jesus provides is full acceptance of one another in mutual love, care and concern as one redeemed family of God.

2. *Jesus Christ alone* _____ *for us.*

Our Lord Jesus accomplished and made peace for us in three ways. First, He made peace for us by abolishing the Jewish ceremonial laws which became a great barrier between the Jews and the Gentiles (Eph. 2:15). When our Lord Jesus came here on earth, His perfect and righteous life and atoning death on the Cross fulfilled the requirements of God's moral law and put an end to the Jewish ceremonial rites and regulations which were but pictures of Jesus' cleansing, sacrificial and redemptive work (Col. 2:17; Heb. 9:11-12; 10:19-22). Second, Jesus made peace for us by creating one new humanity, one new society of redeemed Jewish and Gentile believers called the church (Eph. 2:15; Gal. 3:28). Third, Jesus made peace for us by reconciling us both Jews and Gentiles to God in one body through the Cross (Eph. 2:16). In other words, true peace and genuine harmony with God and with one another is only possible when we are truly reconciled to God through faith in Jesus and His finished work at the Cross. And when you are united with God, you are also united with the people of God which is His church.

3. *Jesus Christ* _____ *to all.*

Our Lord Jesus, through the preaching ministry of the apostles and the continuing gospel ministry of the church, proclaims the message of peace both to the Gentiles who are far off and the Jews who are near (Eph. 2:17). Whether Jew or Gentile, every lost sinner must hear the good news of Jesus' saving peace. Jesus' gift of peace results in the gracious blessing of direct and continual access to God our Father through Jesus' reconciling work and the Spirit's indwelling power (Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor. 13:11).
