

He Himself Is Our Peace: The Wall Christ Tore Down

Ephesians 2:14-18

Key Thoughts

1. Christ Himself IS our peace. Paul is emphatic. Not a giver of peace, not a partial peace, not a peace that exists alongside other peaces. He Himself is it. The question is not whether His peace is available to the believer but whether the believer actually lives in it.
2. The cross brings down two walls at once. The vertical wall between us and God, and the horizontal walls between us and one another. Christ reconciles both directions through one body on one cross.
3. Israel was given the commandments to be a light to the nations. After the Babylonian exile, the religious leaders built a fence around the law and over time elevated the words of man to equal with the words of God. That fence hardened the separation between Jew and Gentile and ultimately led them to crucify the very Messiah they were waiting for.
4. Reconciliation is debt language. Christ paid in full. The enmity between God and humanity, and the enmity between Jew and Gentile, was put to death in His body on the cross.
5. Both groups now have access by one Spirit to the Father. The whole Trinity is engaged in our salvation, and access is granted by faith in Christ, not by lineage, not by law-keeping, not by performance.

Discussion Questions

1. In Ephesians 2:14, Paul writes that Christ “Himself is our peace.” Why does Paul stress “Himself” so emphatically, and how does that change how you think about the peace you have in Christ?
2. The sermon distinguished between God’s commands and man’s commands stacked on top of them (the fence around the law). Where do you see modern versions of stacking human rules on top of God’s Word, and how does that hinder unity in the church today?
3. Read Galatians 3:28. What practical divisions, whether ethnic, cultural, political, or social, does Christ still need to tear down in your heart and in our church today?
4. Acts 10:15 says, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” How might you still be calling someone “common” whom God has already welcomed?
5. Verse 16 says Christ reconciled both to God “in one body through the cross.” If reconciliation cost Christ a death, how should that shape the way you handle conflict with other believers?
6. Ephesians 2:18 says both Jew and Gentile have “access by one Spirit to the Father.” Are you living like someone with unhindered access to the Father this week, or are you living like an outsider? What needs to change?

Applications

1. Identify one wall you have helped keep standing, whether between people groups, denominations, families, or factions in the body of Christ. Take one concrete step this week to tear it down. A phone call. A meal. An apology. A prayer of forgiveness.

2. Audit your faith for any “Jesus plus” you have been leaning on. Jesus plus rules. Jesus plus tradition. Jesus plus performance. Jesus plus lineage. Name it. Confess it. Rest in the finished work of Christ alone.
3. Practice your access. Set aside extended time this week to pray directly to the Father, in the name of the Son, by the power of the Spirit. Live as one who has been brought near.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that Christ Himself is our peace. Thank You that through His flesh He abolished the enmity, and through His blood He reconciled us to You and to one another. Forgive us for rebuilding walls that Your Son tore down. Forgive us for stacking our preferences on top of Your commands. Forgive us for treating Your house like a private club. By Your Spirit, give us the boldness to walk through the door that is Jesus, the humility to welcome others through that same door, and the joy of unhindered access to You. Make us one as You are one, for the sake of Christ and the glory of Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.