

Claim God's Peace

“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)—¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.”

- Ephesians 2:11-22

In This Series...

1. We’ll encourage God’s children to think differently about who they are in Christ.
2. We’ll understand many of our benefits in Christ.
3. We’ll celebrate all that’s ours through Christ.

The Big Problem...

1. Social differences — “uncircumcised” / “the circumcision”
2. Spiritual distance — Remember that you also were...
 - without Christ — no good in your future
 - without citizenship — no community, no leader
 - without covenant — no promise
 - without hope
 - without God in the world — no hope of a hope

He is our PEACE... ¹⁴“...for He Himself is our peace...”

1. Because He...
 - Bonds two into one
 - Broke down the barrier
 - Bested the law
2. In order that...
 - a) Two become one (vs. 14)
 - b) Old becomes one new (vs. 15)
 - c) One reconciled body (vs. 16)
 - d) Access to one Spirit (vs. 18)

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

- John 17:20,21

“You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?”

- 1 Corinthians 3:3

“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- Romans 10:12,13

With Christ As Our PEACE, We...

1. Belong

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household...”

- Ephesians 2:19
2. Build up something greater than ourselves

“...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.”

- Ephesians 2:20
3. Bring glory to our Creator — a “holy temple” (vs. 21)

What Do We Learn

1. We all come to Christ from different backgrounds.
2. Differences are expected, but they don’t have to become disagreements.
3. Sometimes it’s easier to love God than His creations.
4. If we belong to Christ, we belong to each other.
5. Christ holds the church together.

Claim God's Peace

“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)—¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.”

- Ephesians 2:11-22

In This Series...

1. We’ll encourage God’s children to _____ differently about who they are in Christ.
2. We’ll understand many of our _____ in Christ.
3. We’ll celebrate all that’s _____ through Christ.

The Big Problem...

1. _____ differences — “uncircumcised” / “the circumcision”
2. _____ distance — Remember that you also were...
 - without _____ — no good in your future
 - without _____ — no community, no leader
 - without _____ — no promise
 - without _____
 - without God in the world — no _____ of a hope

BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS

He is our PEACE... ¹⁴“...for He Himself is our peace...”

1. Because He...
 - Bonds _____ into one
 - Broke down the _____
 - Bested the _____
2. In order that...
 - a) Two become _____ (vs. 14)
 - b) Old becomes one _____ (vs. 15)
 - c) One _____ body (vs. 16)
 - d) Access to one _____ (vs. 18)

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

- John 17:20,21

“You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?”

- 1 Corinthians 3:3

“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- Romans 10:12,13

With Christ As Our PEACE, We...

1. _____

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household...”

- Ephesians 2:19
2. Build up something _____ than ourselves

“...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.”

- Ephesians 2:20
3. Bring _____ to our Creator — a “holy temple” (vs. 21)

What Do We Learn

1. We all come to Christ from different _____.
2. Differences are _____, but they don’t have to become disagreements.
3. Sometimes it’s easier to _____ God than His creations.
4. If we belong to _____, we belong to each other.
5. Christ holds the church _____.