

**United in Jesus**

**Ephesians 2:11-end**

## **Saved by Grace**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

(Eph 2:18-10 NASB 2020)

## Therefore...

Therefore remember that previously you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision” which is performed in the flesh by human hands-- remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the people of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who previously were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-13 (NASB 2020)

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the hostility, which is the Law composed of commandments expressed in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two one new person, in this way establishing peace; and that He might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the hostility. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (NASB 2020)

So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (NASB 2020)

# Background

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

“I am God Almighty;

Walk before Me, and be blameless.

“I will make My covenant between Me and you,  
And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

Ge 17:1-2 (NASB 2020)

I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land where you live as a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

Ge 17:6-8 (NASB 2020)

# Circumcision

This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. ... But as for an uncircumcised male, one who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

Ge 17:10-11, 14 (NASB 2020)



## Gentiles in the Flesh

“uncircumcision”

- separate from Christ,
- excluded from the people of Israel,
- strangers to the covenant of promise, and
- had no hope and were without God.

# Hope

Strong's - g1680. ἐλπίς elpis; from a primary ἔλπω elpō (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence: — faith, hope.

AV (54) - hope 53, faith 1;

1. expectation of evil, fear
2. expectation of good, hope
  - A. in the Christian sense
    1. joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation
3. on hope, in hope, having hope
  - A. the author of hope, or he who is its foundation
  - B. the thing hoped for

**BUT... Good News!**

**BUT**

**now in Christ Jesus**

**those who previously were far away**

**have been brought near**

**by the blood of Christ.**

## **Fear, Walk, Love**

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the LORD’S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?

Deut 10:12-13 (NASB 2020)

**From**

**Jews**



**Hostility,  
emnity**

**Gentiles**

**From**

**Jews**



Hostility,  
emnity

**Gentiles**

**To**



**Jews**  
**Gentiles**



**Christians**

# Peace

For this is what the high and exalted One

Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, says:

“I dwell in a high and holy place,

And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit

In order to revive the spirit of the lowly

And to revive the heart of the contrite.

“For I will not contend forever,

Nor will I always be angry;

For the spirit would grow faint before Me,

And the breath of those whom I have made.

“Because of the wrongful act of his unjust gain I was  
angry and struck him;  
I hid My face and was angry,  
And he went on turning away, in the way of his heart.

“I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;  
I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his  
mourners,

Creating the praise of the lips.

**Peace, peace to him who is far away  
and to him who is near,”  
Says the LORD, “and I will heal him.”**

Is 57:15-19 (NASB 2020)

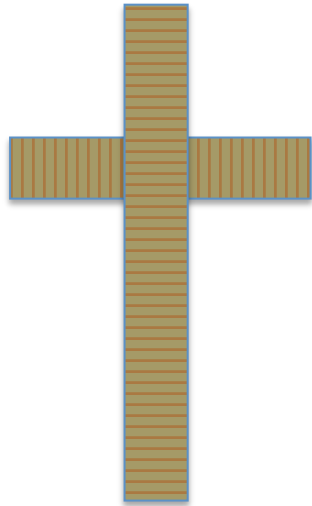


## **Peace/Shalom**

The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets call shalom. We call it peace but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight – a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.

Cornelius Plantinga

**God**



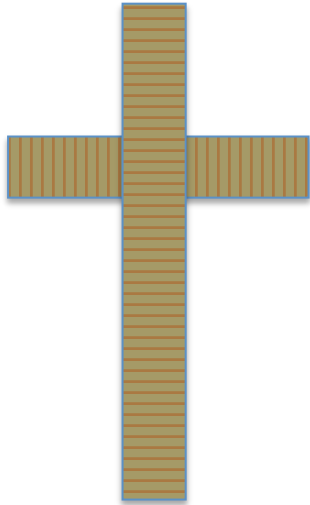
**People**



**Reconciliation**



**God**



**People**

**Reconciliation**

**Jews**

**Gentiles**



**One in Christ**

# Application

- We look for “things” to make our lives complete
- We need to be in touch with our creator;
  - it's God we need to fill the void

# Application

- We look for “things” to make our lives complete
- We need to be in touch with our creator;
  - it’s God we need to fill the void

**“If you look at the world, you'll be distressed.  
If you look within, you'll be depressed.  
If you look at God you'll be at rest.”**

**Corrie Ten Boom**

# Big Change

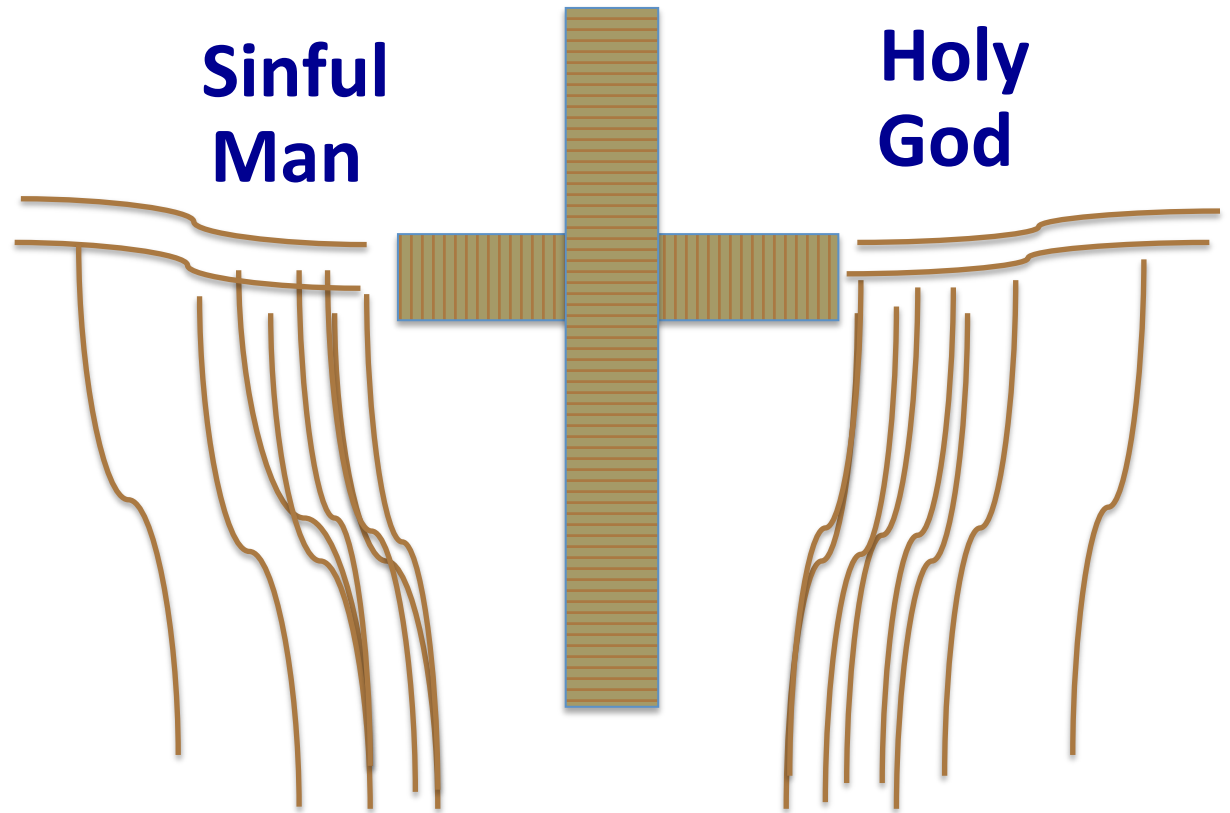
**“But now in Christ Jesus  
you who previously were far away  
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”**

God is holy

God made a way for us:

- to be forgiven of our sin
- have hope (confident assurance) of eternal life
- Have a personal relationship with our creator

**Bridging  
the  
Gap**



## Question

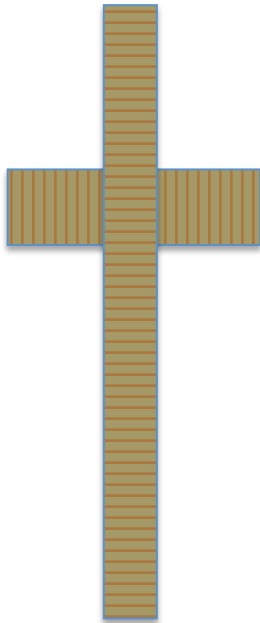
**If you were to die today,  
where would you be spending  
eternity?**

**Do you “hope”  
Or**

**Is your hope a  
“confident expectation?”**

**Have you been reconciled to  
God?**

**God**



**People**





## **Are You at Peace?**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all people. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NASB 2020)

# Horizontal Reconciliation

**No more Jew vs. Gentile**

**Is your identity in Christ?**

**How are we doing at showing God's  
grace and love to each other?**

**Jews**

**Gentiles**



**One in Christ**

## **Summary Questions**

**Have you been reconciled to God?**

**Are you showing God's grace  
and love to your fellow believer?**

**Are you experiencing God's peace?**

## **In Closing...**

Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, that is, Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

He 13:20-21 (NASB 2020)