

# Chosen in Grace

Peace – Ephesians 2:11-22

## Brought Near (Ephesians 2:11-13)

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

Ephesians 2:12-13

### Then & Now:

From excluded to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12)

From foreigners to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12)

From hopeless to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12)

From far away to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13)

In Christ, we have peace with \_\_\_\_\_.

## A New Humanity (Ephesians 2:14-18)

*“For **he himself is our peace**, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace...”*

Ephesians 2:14-16

In Christ, we have peace with \_\_\_\_\_.

*“We are **one race**: human. With **one problem**: Sin. **One solution**: Jesus. And **one hope**: the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.”*

J. D. Greear

## A New Temple (Ephesians 2:19-22)

*“And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”*

Ephesians 2:22

### How do we live into this reality?

1. Let go of pride and preferences for the sake of peace.
2. Be curious, ask questions, learn about them.
3. Spend time, invite them over.
4. Prioritize peace; see differences through lens of peace.
5. Extend grace; we're all a work in progress.

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Questions based on Sermon from May 21, 2023

**Getting to Know Me –**

1. What was your favorite thing to do growing up? What is one of your favorite things to do now?
  
2. What is one of your biggest pet peeves while driving?

**Digging Deeper**

3. What new thought or insight did you learn about peace with God and others through Sunday's message? What did you question or struggle with hearing?
  
4. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 slowly. What is your understanding of the relationship between Jews and Gentiles? In a sentence or two, how would you sum up Paul's main point here?
  
5. When was a time that you were excluded from something? How did that make you feel?
  
6. Read Ephesians 2:14-18. How would you define *peace*?
  
7. What does it mean that "*he himself is our peace*" (v. 14)? What does this tangibly look like in our lives today?
  
8. What are some barriers in our world / in your relationships that get in the way of experiencing the peace Christ brings? If Christ destroyed the barrier, why do we keep putting them up?

9. What impact does unity (or lack of unity) in the church have on our witness to those who do not yet know Jesus? See John 17:22-23.

**Where Do I Go from Here?**

10. Who is a person or group who you struggle to be at peace with? Why do you think this is?
  
11. Through which lens do you typically view those who are different from you: the lens of Christ's peace or the lens of your differences?
  
12. Which of the "how to" steps that Phil and Tony mentioned Sunday will you put into practice this week?
  
13. Spend some time this week reflecting on what it means that we are **all** being joined together to become a holy temple in the Lord (v. 21).

**Prayer**

*Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the grace you have given to each one of us. We thank you for the freedom and confidence to come before you and ask that you will continue to teach us your ways and help us to administer your grace to those around us. Give us eyes to see and hearts to act for your glory. Amen!*

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Ephesians 2:12-13

## Then & Now:

From excluded to included (v. 12)

From foreigners to citizens (v. 12)

From hopeless to hope-full (v. 12)

From far away to near (v. 13)

**In Christ, we have peace with God.**

## A New Humanity (Ephesians 2:14-18)

*“For **he himself is our peace**, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace...”*

Ephesians 2:14-16

**In Christ, we have peace with one another.**

*“We are **one race**: human. With **one problem**: Sin. **One solution**: Jesus. And **one hope**: the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.”*

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