

Text: Eph 2.14-18

First, let's review the major sections of Ephesians so far:

1. Celebration of all the Spiritual Blessings (1.1-14)
2. Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians (growth in full knowledge of Him) (1.15-23)
3. The Work of God in Saving Men (2.1-10) [individual salvation in view]

We now move into a section I am calling:

The Work of God in Creating a New Order

Last week we talked about:

1. The work in the Gentiles (he brought the Gentiles near)

This week it is:

2. The work of peace-making

I am using the title,

He Is Our Peace

Let's read our passage: Eph 2.14-18

Proposition: The work of God is to make peace between men and God.

I think you can guess what I think the big theme of these verses is: **Peace**.

I. The structure of the passage

A. Two main thoughts in our passage

1. Verses 14-16
2. Verses 17-18

B. First declaration: "He himself is our peace"

1. Redescribing "He himself":
 - a. "who made both *groups into one*"
 - b. "and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,"
2. How did he become our peace? "by abolishing in His flesh the enmity,"

3. What enmity? “*which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances,*”

C. What is the purpose of becoming our peace

1. so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man,
2. and might reconcile them both in one body to God
 - a. Making one new man: establishes peace
 - b. Reconciling to God: through the cross, which put to death the enmity

D. Second declaration: “He came and...”

1. preached peace to you who were far away,
2. and peace to those who were near;

Result?

for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

I hope that helps you see how the passage is put together

II. Now some Bible Study questions

1. We have the word “peace” in vv. 14, 15, and 17: is it referring to the same thing each time?

No, peace in vv. 14, 15 refer to peace between Jews and Gentiles (see “both groups” (14) and “one new man” (15)), v. 17 refers to peace between men and God (see v. 18)

2. We have “enmity” in vv. 15 and 16, is it referring to the same thing each time?

No, enmity in v. 15 refers to the tension between Jew and Gentile; (see “dividing wall” and “Law of Commandments”) enmity in v. 16 refers to the tension between men and God (see “reconciled ... to God”)

3. How do his two purposes relate to these distinctions?

The uniting of Jews and Gentiles into one new man is part and parcel of creating a new way of access to God, as Christians in the New Covenant, not as Jews [Israel] under the Old Covenant

4. When or what is the preaching of peace? (17)

It is certainly the preaching of Christ through the apostles and all subsequent preachers, it might also include Christ's earthly ministry though then he preached primarily to Israel

5. Any other questions you might have?