



Centering on Peacemaking

December 11th, 2016

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men! - Luke 2:14 NKJV

You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family. - Matthew 5:9 MSG

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. - Romans 12:17-18 MSG

TEXT: Ephesians 2:8-18

How We Become a Peacemaker

1. RECEIVE THE GIFT OF GOD.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. - Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT

2. PARTNER WITH HIS PEACE PLAN.

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹²In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. - Ephesians 2:11-13 NLT

What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their faith. God proclaimed this GOOD NEWS to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith. - Galatians 3:8-9 NLT

3. BREAK DOWN THE DIVIDING WALLS.

For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. - Ephesians 2:14-15a NLT

4. UNITE WITH HIS NEW HUMANITY.

He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. - Ephesians 2:15b NLT

5. EMBRACE THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. ¹⁷He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. - Ephesians 2:16-18 NLT

My Next Step This Week...

- Memorize [Luke 2:14](#).
- Break down a class, ethnic, or gender wall this week. Get "cross-eyed for Jesus" by crossing over!
- Commit to bringing people together where you find them apart.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.