



How the Gospel of Peace Crushes Racism

Ephesians 2:11-22, Romans 12:1-6, 9-21

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THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

1. _____ where you came _____
 - The root of our problem is _____ from God, and the only solution is _____ to him, and _____ is the one who takes us there.
2. You must understand your _____
 - In Christ we are reconciled to God: _____ peace.
 - And in Christ we are reconciled to other Christians: _____ peace.
 - Your deepest and truest identity is that you are now _____ Christ and are part of his _____.
 - God's reconciliation and peace is both destructive and constructive. It destroys _____ and hostility, and it creates one new _____ in Christ.
3. _____ who you _____!
 - THE resource: the _____ of Jesus.
 - THE power: the Holy _____.
 - THE confidence: the _____ without sin and death.

SOME TRUTHS TO CHALLENGE US

- We all have _____, and the sins that are most _____ your life are the ones you can't see.
- Be faithful to address injustices _____... but also be faithful in six _____... and be faithful in six _____.
- As a Christian, there are some _____ that we must reject, but there are some _____ we must reject too.

SOME TRUTHS TO STAND ON

- This new humanity is all built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, the chief _____.
- Outside of Christ the one barrier that remains is the barrier of _____.

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² 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. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Romans 12:1-6, 9-21

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.