

Neighbors & Nations: Made to Worship

Made for Peace
Ephesians 2:11-22

Recap: Made to Praise → Made to Follow → Made to Belong → Made to Work
→ Made to Go → Made for Peace

“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” **Ephesians 2:11–22**

Main Idea: For God’s Glory and Their Good, We can Bring Peace to our Neighbors and Nations.

2 Ways that the Work of Jesus Brings Reconciliation, from Ephesians 2:11-22

1. Christ Offers Peace with God (11-14)

“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” **Ephesians 2:11-13**

Apart from Christ, we were the same as the Ephesian Gentiles.

- Separated from Christ
- Alienated and strangers to the promises of God
- Having no hope and without God in the world

The reminder is: It’s not about me or you! ***Look at what God has done!***

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” **Ephesians 2:13**

How beautiful is this gift and look at what we have as a result!

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...” **Ephesians 2:14**

He is our peace! **We are Reconciled with God!**

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Romans 5:1**

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**

*“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by **canceled the record of debt** that stood against us with its legal demands. **This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.**”* **Colossians 2:13–14**

No longer separated - Now we have our Savior!

No longer are we alienated or strangers - We’re sons & daughters!

No longer without God - Now we have eternal hope in Him!!

Peace with God changes everything!

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation”
Isaiah 52:7

We get to bring the beautiful message of **victory over sin** and **peace with God!**

Main Idea: For God’s Glory and Their Good, We can Bring Peace to our Neighbors and Nations.

2. Christ Offers Peace with One Another (14-22)

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.” **Ephesians 2:14-16**

“Jesus abolished both the regulations of the ceremonial law and the condemnation of the moral law. Both were divisive. Both were put aside by the cross.” - **John Stott**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

“Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.” **Colossians 3:11**

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” **Revelation 7:9**

“And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” **Ephesians 2:17–19**

- **We Had the Same Problem (v17)**
- **We Found the Same Solution (v17)**

NOW:

- **We Have the Same Father (v18)**

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” **Romans 8:15**

- **We Share the Same Citizenship (v19)**

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” **Philippians 3:20**

- **We’re Part of the Same Work of God**

“built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” **Ephesians 2:20–22**

Here’s the problem: **Peace can be hard.**

We were made to find peace with God. And once we have it, once we are in Christ, we’re called to share peace with others.

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

James 1:19–20

“And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” **James 3:18**

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” **Romans 12:17–18**

Practical Helps from The Peacemaker by Ken Sande - 4 G’s:

a) Glorify God - “How can I honor God in this situation?”

b) Get the log out of your own eye

“What have I done wrong? What do I need to change?”

c) Gently restore - The point is not to shame, punish, or defeat them. It’s restoration and healing!

d) Go and be reconciled - Take practical steps toward peace.

Main Idea: For God’s Glory and Their Good, We can Bring Peace to our Neighbors and Nations.

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” **2**

Corinthians 5:18–20

Invitation: Jesus is the perfect peacemaker.

“...We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” **2 Corinthians 5:20–21**

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Exalting Jesus in Ephesians* – Tony Merida (2014)
- *ESV Study Bible* – Crossway (2008)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- *Opening Up Ephesians* – Kurt Strassner (2014)
- *The Peacemaker* – Ken Sande (2004)
- *Ephesians: Our Immeasurable Blessings in Christ* – John MacArthur (2000)
- *Ephesians for You* – Richard Coekin (2015)
- *Ephesians* – Lynn H. Cohick (2010)
- *Commentary Critical & Explanatory on the Whole Bible* – Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown (1997)

