

Letting Jesus Win
A Study through the book of Ephesians
Ephesians 2:14-16

One of the important things that we need to learn as a Christian, is how to let Jesus win when we are in a relational conflict with a fellow believer. Let's talk about how today.

The reason why we must let Jesus win when there are relational issues, is because we are warned in Gal. 5:15, "If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." Plus, we are simply told in 1 Cor. 16:14, "Do everything in love."

What can we do to secure a healthy Christ honoring resolution when we are in a relational conflict with a fellow believer? Today's passage will give us some much-needed insights.

The context of our passage is about how in the New Testament times there was an issue of hostile prejudice between the unsaved Jew and the unsaved Gentile.

To make sure that this prejudice no longer has a place in the hearts of the believing Jew and Gentile, the Holy Spirit moves through Paul to reveal how Jesus Himself resolved the conflict between them. In it we find four principles for how Jesus can win in our own conflicts.

Ephesians 2:13-14a, "But now in Christ Jesus you who were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one"

Jesus doesn't just bring peace but is Himself our peace. Jesus drew both the Jewish believer and the Gentile believer into union with Him as their sole source of salvation and life. This same union with Jesus made the Jewish believer and Gentile believer one with each other (Gal. 3:28).

Because Jesus is the same source of peace between the two, they each have in Jesus a shared source of harmony, security, respect and felicity that they can now draw on and express toward each other.

This brings us to our first principle: to let Jesus win in the conflict, we must realize we can never have peace with another person until we first find our source of peace in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:14-15a, For He himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations."

To keep the covenant people from falling into idolatry, the Old Testament law put up a barrier of separation between the Jew and the surrounding Gentile nations. But because of the sinful fallenness of both Jew and Gentile, that barrier turned into a wall of hostility between the two.

But as our peace, Jesus destroyed that barrier and its hostility by abolishing in His flesh the Old Covenant law that separated the two. This is affirmed throughout the New Testament. This word "abolish" means to render something inoperative, it's taking the keys out of the ignition.

There are seven ways that Jesus abolished the Old Covenant Law:

By fulfilling the Law for us in His own flesh Matt. 5:17.

By canceling on the cross the written code, (debt of the law) that stood against us Col. 2:14.

By His crucifixion taking on Himself all the curses of the law against us Gal. 3:23.

By making the Old Covenant obsolete through His resurrection and priestly ministry Heb. 8:13.

By declaring all food clean Mark 7:18-19.

By being the end of the Law through bringing true righteousness to all who believe Rom. 10:14.

By being the mediator of the better covenant than the old covenant Hebrews 8:6.

Principle 2, to let Jesus win in the conflict, we must let His heart and agenda take priority over the relational issue, doing so gives Him room to destroy the dividing wall of hostility.

Ephesians 2:15b, “His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace.”

We know that when we were saved, we entered into a union with Christ where each of us became a new creation. As we are told in 2 Cor. 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone the new has come.”

But notice how in this verse Jesus created in Himself one whole new kind of man out of both Jew and Gentile, by melding both types of people in Himself.

By doing this He made peace between the two because it’s is no longer about ones Jewishness or ones Gentile-ness but rather their mutual Christian-ness.

Principle 3, to let Jesus win in the conflict, we must remember that we have a shared life source and identity in Christ, a shared love and a shared unity in Christ to keep tapping into.

Ephesians 2:16, “and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put an end to their hostility.”

The description of Ephesians 2:1-3 applies to both the nonbelieving Jew and the nonbelieving Gentile. Both were dead in sins and transgressions. Both followed the ways of the world. Both followed Satan. Both lived to gratify the cravings of the sinful nature following its desires and thoughts. And both by nature were objects of wrath.

But because Jesus took both Jew and Gentile in Himself on the cross, they are mutually and equally atoned for, mutually and equally redeemed, mutually and equally forgiven and mutually and equally reconciled to God by His sacrifice.

And so, what their previous hostility was based on and fueled by, is now nullified by Christ’s sacrifice. As such, Jesus by His work on the cross put an end to the hostility.

Principle 4, To let Jesus win in the conflict, we must see the other persons offence and wrong on the cross of Christ and be satisfied with His suffering and sacrifice for them.