



Christ Jesus Offers Peace to All Ephesians 2:11-22

For through Christ 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 2:18-19 —ESV).

Our world consists of Jews and Gentiles (Gentiles are all who are not Jews). Paul described the Jews as “the commonwealth of Israel” and those who possessed “the covenants of promise.” He wrote that without Christ Jesus the Gentiles had “no hope” and were “without God in the world.” From the Bible and the record of human history, we know that these two groups have had hostile relations for more than four thousand years. To bring peace to and between these two groups, God the Father sent His Son into the world. In Christ, God brings Jews and Gentiles together in peace. Paul wrote that Christ Jesus “is our peace.” He came and proclaimed peace to the Gentiles; that is, “to you who were far off” and to the Jews; that is, “to those who were near.” In Christ Jesus, Gentiles and Jews can come together in peace, and many have done so over the past two thousand years. By the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, they both now have access to God the Father, and Jesus Christ himself and the Holy Spirit now indwell them. The Holy Spirit fills, guides, and empowers those from both groups in their relationship with God and one another. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit within them, they learn how to love and live in peace with one another. In Christ Jesus, Jews and Gentiles are no longer “strangers and aliens,” but “citizens with the saints” and “members of the household of God.” In Christ Jesus, they are all children of God in the family of God. They no longer practice ceremonial laws for salvation; instead, they trust and follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior for salvation. They build their lives together upon “the foundation of the apostles and prophets,” (the Bible). Through their faithful obedience to Christ, they “grow into a holy temple in the Lord,” and are “built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”