

He Is Our Peace

Paul's Letter from Rome to the Ephesians

Ephesians 2:11-22

2:11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)—
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 through the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this 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 aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's 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.

4. Christ Is Our Peacemaker

A dividing wall kept you out

▼ Remember your dna as Gentiles

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth

▼ Remember your derogatory designation as Gentiles

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)—

▼ Remember your distance as Gentiles

▲ You were far from Christ

Ephesians 2:12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ,

▲ You were foreigners to the covenants

Ephesians 2:12 excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise,

▼ Remember your despair as Gentiles

Ephesians 2:12 without hope and without God in the world.

A divine welcome calls you in

▼ The blood has been disbursed

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

▼ The barrier has been destroyed

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

▼ The bridge of brotherhood has been deployed

Ephesians 2:15 His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

▼ The breakthrough has been delivered

Ephesians 2:17 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.

▼ The building has been designed in divine detail

▲ We're a holy household

Ephesians 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

▲ We're framed on a firm foundation

Ephesians 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

▲ We're a towering temple

Ephesians 2:21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

▲ We're a spiritual sanctuary

Ephesians 2:22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

1. Jesus is the Prince of Peace — by his death he has torn apart the curtain that stood between us and the presence and blessing of God — so trust him completely, come boldly into the throne room of grace, and rejoice in your privilege of living in God's favor and fullness.

2. Jesus is the Prince of Peace — by his death he has broken down the wall of separation between peoples — so live in humility and love and strive to thrive as a fully invested member of God's household.

3. Jesus is the Prince of Peace — by his death he has paid the price for us to experience peace in our hearts and minds and healing in our lives — so lean into him and receive rest and refreshing and renewal.

4. Jesus is the Prince of Peace — soon the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever — so rejoice in the hope of coming victory and eternal life with Jesus.

A Brief Summary on Circumcision

1. Circumcision was a physical sign of the covenant instituted by God between Himself and Abraham in the Old Testament.

Genesis 17:10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

2. Circumcision was codified in the Law of Moses and was to be practiced by the Jews without exception.

Leviticus 12:3 On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised.

3. Circumcision was intended to be a physical sign of a spiritual covenant and commitment.

Deuteronomy 30:6 The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

4. As a Jewish baby, Jesus was circumcised in accordance with the Law.

Luke 2:21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

5. Paul himself was circumcised as a son born into an observant Jewish family, and he had been proud of his Jewish credentials.

Philippians 3:4 If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

6. Jesus instituted a new covenant under which his death/blood would satisfy the judgment of God and offer salvation by grace to the believer.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

7. Jewish false teachers in the Church began to teach that Gentiles must be circumcised in addition to their faith in Christ in order to be saved.

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

8. Paul and Barnabas brought the question to the apostles and elders at Jerusalem who rendered a firm decision on the matter.

Acts 15:7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

9. Despite the ruling, the Jewish false teachers continued to circulate and preach that circumcision was necessary for salvation, and Paul spent much of his ministry confronting this false doctrine vehemently.

Galatians 1:7 Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. — 5:10 The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. 11 Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. 12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

Philippians 3:2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

