



## “The Peace That Cost Everything”

April 19, 2026 | Text: Ephesians 2:14-18

[14] For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15] 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, [16] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. [17] And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. [18] For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

### I. He Is Our Peace — The Person Before the Program (v.14a)

Christ is not the giver of peace, He *is* our peace.

Peace (*shalom*) = wholeness, completeness, everything as it ought to be.

### II. He Destroyed the Wall — How Peace Was Made (vv.14b–15)

Jerusalem temple inscription (71 AD): "No man of another race is to enter within the fence and enclosure around the temple. Whoever is caught will have only himself to thank for the death which follows."

*Katargeō* = to render inoperative by fulfilling; not abolished but accomplished.

- 1) The wall was God's idea: fulfilled in Christ, not discarded
- 2) The veil torn top to bottom: God's work; free access for all
- 3) One new man: not a blend of two, but a genuinely new creation; the Third Race

### III. He Killed the Enmity — Reconciled to God Through the Cross (v.16)

**Romans 5:10:** *While we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son.*

"Christ crucified has brought into being nothing less than a new united race, united in itself and united to its Creator." (John Stott)

### IV. He Preached Peace — The Gospel Still Going Out (v.17)

**Isaiah 57:19:** "Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near"

Far off = Gentiles. Near = Jews. Both have had peace preached to them.

### V. He Opened the Door — Access to the Father (v.18)

The Trinitarian structure of access:

*Through the Son:* the right, purchased by blood

*In the Spirit:* the experience; any place is now sacred

*To the Father:* personal, welcomed, confident

If you were to share a key insight from today's sermon with a friend, what would you say in a sentence or two?

**Application Questions:** Where are you trying to achieve peace on the horizontal level without first addressing the vertical? Christ is our peace, not the giver of peace but its embodiment. What is the difference, and why does it matter for how you relate to Him? The cross "killed the enmity," so it is dead, not weakened. Are you living like someone whose enmity with God has been fully and finally executed, or like someone still trying to manage their standing before Him? Do you enjoy God? Do you use the access purchased by Christ's blood, boldly, frequently, with delight? What would change this week if you took verse 18 seriously?

Next week's sermon text: Ephesians 2:19-22

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