

Grace that Removes Our Walls

Ephesians 2:11-17; 3:7-10

Revival in the Family

- A. Revival to bring to life, spiritually. To reinvigorate from a state of spiritual slumber or apathy, self-will or self-absorption.
- B. In the family to embrace revival in my particular "season of life," i.e., single, married, widowed, divorced.

Key terms in Scripture today

- A. Jew a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his 12 sons. Name comes from the tribe of "Judah" ("Jews")
- B. Gentile any non-Jewish person.
 - Greeks, Romans, Arabs, etc., subsets of Gentiles
- C. Jewish believers. A Jew who has placed their faith in Jesus as the means of forgiveness of their sins ("Messianic Jews" today). People in text today.

1. Let's think about Paul's question: "Where would you be without Jesus?" How can we value our need for revival wo remembering what we have with Jesus?

V2:12 – "remember that you were at that time separated from Christ ... having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now, in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace...

Season of life – single, married, …



v2:12 "... having <mark>no hope</mark> and without God. But now you have been brought near. For He Himself is our peace..."

- 2. Paul saw himself as "saved for more" to preach to the Gentiles in a hostile, divided city. Are there areas in your life that you might liken to a "hostile, divided, city"?
- Eph. 3:1-2 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles-- ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ... 8 To me, the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God ...

- 3. How do you explain what happened at the church of Ephesus? The "mystery" of two broken, divided, groups becoming one? How can we make this mystery, resolved in our lives?
- Mystery "hidden thing, secret, ... confided only to the initiated and not to ordinary mortals"
 - 4x in Ephesians 3: V3, 4, 6, 9
- Eph 2:13-16 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 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* ... that he might create in himself *one new man in place of two*, so making peace, and might *reconcile us both to God*..."

Hostility among people groups was taught in NT times and earlier.

- A. Samaritan woman at well. John 4:9, "(for Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)"
- B. Cornelius Acts 10:28, Peter says "you yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate or visit anyone of another nation but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."
- C. Jewish Temple. Wall prohibiting Gentiles from entering the temple, under threat of death.
- D. Jewish-Arab hostility over centuries.

• Eph. 2:14-17 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. (ESV)



"No foreigner [Gentile] is to enter within the ... enclosure of the Temple. Whoever is caught will be responsible for his ensuing death."

So awe-inspiring, so amazing, was the removal of this hostility, that it warranted a revelation through the church to the "other world"

• Eph. 3:9-12 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made *known* to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.



The church as witness of the "manifold wisdom of God" - the cross of Jesus!

Justice

4. In the context of our family series, how can we bring peace into our homes, our work relationships, our school relationships?

Eph 2:13-16 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 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* ... that he might create in himself *one new man in place of two*, so making peace, and might *reconcile us both to God*..."

Call to Action

A. The people in Ephesus could easily identify the division among themselves wo Christ. Take some time this next week to identify people, groups, who have wounded you. Will you work through forgiveness of them just as you have been forgiven by Jesus? Peace, from your perspective, is His promise.

Eph 3:3 how the *mystery* was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This *mystery* is that the *Gentiles* are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.....8 To me, ... this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (Eph. 3:1-10)

Reframe Yourself in Light of Christ's Stewardship for you!

Suffering

HS- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, mercy, faithfulness, self-control

Evangelists

Shepherding

Serving

Leadership

Teaching