

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Connected Ephesians: Week 5

Ephesians 2:13-18

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

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by 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, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Isaiah 9:6b

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Romans 3:17

and the way of peace they do not know.

I. The Origin of Peace

1. True peace is _____.
2. Peace is not merely weariness with _____.
3. When Christ makes peace, it is _____, genuine and _____.
4. In order to live at peace with someone else we must be at peace with _____.
 - True peace starts by clearing up problems between _____ and _____.
5. Until you have peace with Christ, your perspective of others will always be _____.
 - Oneness with _____ results in a sense of oneness with _____.

1 John 4:20

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

II. The Process of Peace

1. Identify the _____.
 - Walls are barriers built by a false sense of _____.
 - Self-righteous demands fuel _____.
2. Realize only _____ destroys walls.
 - When _____ end, hostility dies.

- Self-righteousness always generates _____.
- When we cease trying to _____ people, God begins his work of _____.
- When hostility ends, a whole new _____ begins.
- Hostility lacks _____ when we stay focused on the _____.

III. Taking Possession of Peace

1. Believe that a self-righteous standing before God is utterly _____.
2. _____ with the Father.

The trials, pressures, and joys of life all have been allowed by God to generate a dependency on Christ in order that we may know the power and provision of Christ.

John 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.