

Message

The Gospel of Peace

I. Christ is our peace—Eph. 2:14:

- A. In the world there is no peace—John 16:33; 6:17-21.
- B. The peace Christ gives is different from the world's peace—14:27.
- C. Christ's peace reconciles us to God—Rom. 5:1,10.

II. The church is the kingdom of peace—14:17:

- A. There is peace in the one New Man—Eph. 2:15.
- B. Christ has slain all enmity between races—2:16.
- C. In the New Man Christ is our bond of peace—4:3.

III. How to receive the gospel of peace—2:17:

- A. This gospel is for all the nations—2:17; Rom. 16:25-26.
- B. Being baptized—Matt. 28:19.
- C. Being a disciple—28:19.

The Troubled World and the Peace-Giving Christ

John 6:17-21 And when evening fell, His disciples went down to the sea, and they got into a boat and began crossing the sea to Capernaum. And it had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. And because a strong wind was blowing, the ¹sea was churning. Then, when they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw ²Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they became frightened. But He said to them, It is I. Do not be afraid. Then they were willing to ³take Him into the boat; and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

1. The churning of the sea signifies the troubles in human life.
2. Jesus walking on the sea signifies that the Lord can overrule all the troubles of human life. He can walk on the troubling waves of human life, and all the troubles are under His feet.
3. We need to take the Lord into our "boat" (our married life, our family, our business, etc.) and enjoy peace with Him on the journey of human life.

Eph. 2:14-15 For He Himself is our ¹peace, He who has made both bone and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity, Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might ²create the two ³in Himself into one new man, so making peace.

1. Because of the fall of mankind and the calling of the chosen race, there was a separation between Israel and the Gentiles. Through Christ's redemption this separation has been removed. When He was crucified on the cross, all the ordinances were nailed there, thus breaking down the middle wall of partition between the Jews and the Gentiles.
2. Christ created the one new man, the church, by working God's divine nature into humanity. The church is the one new man, which is corporate and universal, created of two peoples, the Jews and the Gentiles, and composed of all the believers, who, though they are many, are one new man in the universe.
3. Christ is not only the Creator of the one new man, the church, but also the sphere in which and the means by which the one new man was created. The Greek word rendered in here can also have an elemental significance, meaning also with, implying that the new man was created with Christ as its divine essence.

Hymns

The Church Is My Sweet Home

The Lord is my greatest love,
He's won me completely;
As Comforter He ever brings
Timely help and sympathy.
He died, that I be redeemed,
He rose, a life-giving Stream;
Now He in me abides,
My peace, my joy, my life;
Dear Lord! How I love Thee,
Evermore, I love Thee!

The church is my home sweet home,
She fills all my longing,
The Lord's beloved bride is she,
All my days for her shall be.
O home full of love and care!
God's river of life we share;
I'm strengthened every day,
And guided all the way;
Dear Church! How I love Thee,
Home sweet home, I love Thee!

Once by Nature We Were Dead in Sin

1. Once by nature we were dead in sin,
In a world of utter discord;
But together God has quickened us,
Raised us up to sit together with the Lord.

Jesus is getting us together,
Come and see the saints in one accord.
His love is knitting us together,
To the stature of the fullness of the Lord.

2. Thus with all saints we can apprehend,
All the vast dimensions of God.
Knowing Christ's love passes all we know,
We're together filled to fullness with our God.
3. Now we know the purpose of our God,
Visible the mystery became:
Christ, the church, together now we see,
And together put the enemy to shame.
4. For this cause we pray the Father God —
Strengthen Thou with might our inner man;
Make Yourself at home in all our hearts,
Root us, ground us in Your love and for Your plan.
5. In the Body we'll be fitly framed
As the many members Christ supply;
Working in the measure of each part,
All by growth in love the Body edify.
6. Now we're one His purpose to fulfill,
As the one new man of His plan.
Unto Him be glory in the church,
And in Jesus Christ forevermore — Amen!