

**Peace with
One Another: God's
Removal of all
Human Distinctions in
Christ**

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 20:7, 22-26
Ephesians 2:11-15

RECAP

1. Eph. 2:1-3 Our past: we were spiritually dead with all the rest of humanity
2. Eph. 2:4-6 Our present: we are made alive, resurrected, and now seated together in Christ by means of God's love, grace, and mercy
3. Eph. 2:7 Our future: God will display His exceeding riches of grace by means of His infinite kindness in the coming ages

RECAP continued

4. Eph. 2:8-10 God's gracious salvation never resulted from our works, but was the cause of His pre-planned works for us

5. Eph. 2:11-13 God's rich grace has erased ALL our mutual relationship to Him in Christ

- ❖ We continue to have distinctions with each other here on Earth (gender, etc)
- ❖ But all of those ongoing distinctions here on Earth are superseded in our mutual position in Christ
- ❖ Therefore, we are all different here but made completely equal in Christ!

THE PROBLEM EXPLAINED: HATRED

- The cause of this hatred: The Mosaic Law - cf Lev 20:7, 22-26
 - God's separation of Israel from all the abominable practices of the Gentiles
 - GOD built this wall of separation - "the middle wall of partition"
 - Therefore, GOD can righteously "break down this wall of separation"
 - Note: the Law's purpose was not only to keep Israel separate from the rest of the nations, but also to act as a proxy for the nation in the demonstration of all mankind's inability to be righteous before God

THE PROBLEM EXPLAINED: HATRED

(continued)

- The beginning of the Law – Ex 19:1-8
 - Vs 4 - God delivered Israel from Egypt because they were under the Abrahamic land covenant
 - Vs 5 – to keep this existing covenant, they only had to BELIEVE that God would fulfill it!
 - Vs 8 – Israel's response was NOT to believe God but to attempt to DO what only God could do
- Their inability was demonstrated after about 1400 years of failure to keep the Law

THE PROBLEM SOLVED

(Ephesians 2:14-15)

1. Christ rendered ineffective (idle) the cause of hatred between Jew and non- Jew
 - Vs 15 “in His flesh” by means of His death on the cross - Cf Col 2:14
 - Jesus personally fulfilled the Law during His Earthly life He then paid for all sin that the Law made plain
 - Then, He nullified the Law and it's righteousness by providing “faith righteousness” – Rom 10:1-4

THE PROBLEM SOLVED - Ephesians 2:14-15 (continued)

2. Christ made the two parties of hatred ONE entity,
by means of creating **ONE NEW MAN** = one head
with many members – I Cor 12:12-13

***The NEW MAN = the one Body of Christ**

3. The result PEACE – Eph 2:14,15

CONCLUSION

• I Cor 10:32 describes 3 groups of people in God's sight:

- Jew, Gentile, the Church

• Don't focus on the past (or even the present) differences between NT grace believers

• Christ has made ALL believers ONE, TOGETHER IN CHRIST – who is the Head of the One New Man where there is

- No Jew or Gentile
- No bond or free
- No male or female
- Not even mature or immature

• For we are ALL mature ones, i.e. “sons”, IN CHRIST