

# RECONCILED TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER ... IN ONE BODY

## Part 13 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:15-16 KJV Paraphrased **SLIDE**

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus created] *One New Man* <sup>16</sup>... *that He might reconcile both [Jew and Gentile] to God in one body ... having slain the enmity [hostility] by the cross.*

For decades people all across this world have wanted 'World Peace'. They've preached it ... sang about it ... written about it ...

They've formed international bodies such as The World Peace Council, World Peace Foundation and **SLIDE** 'The United Nations'

*Since 1945, the aim of the United Nations has been to resolve conflicts without war or declarations of war. The five permanent members of The United Nations Security Council advocating this peace are ...*

*China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.*

*These are the great peacemakers that are going to bring about world peace.*

*Superfluous to say, ever since these united 'Giants of Peace' have been organising 'WORLD PEACE' ... there have been countless military conflicts many of which they themselves have been involved in.*

So, since then, many leaders have proposed different ways to achieve peace, WHICH IRONICALLY, they couldn't agree on ... creating more division ...

*They've tried **Peace by Meditation (Bahia)** ... **Peace by Mediation** ... **Peace by Force** (Lord Rama is quoted as saying, 'Once prayers for peace fail, one may need to instil fear to bring peace') ... **Peace by Education** ...*

Did you know in 1981 The United Nations established a day of peace each year on 21 Sept?

However, since 21 September 2013 – the International Day of Peace – has been dedicated to peace education to attempt to reduce war sustainably, which is clearly not working!

**NB: ALL THESE PEACE THEORIES HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON - THEY LEAVE GOD OUT.**

Jesus said of the end-times –

Matthew 24:6-7

*And you will hear of **wars** and **rumours of wars** ...<sup>17</sup> For nation will rise **against nation**, and kingdom **against kingdom** ...*

IT'S CLEAR THAT PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLE & NATIONS CAN NEVER BE ACHIEVED. **DIVISION ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN** WHEN MAN FIRST DEPARTED FROM GOD.

From the day that man first fell in the Garden of Eden ... enmity entered his heart. And the first person they had enmity against was God Himself –

Adam said, 'The Woman YOU GAVE ME ... gave me the fruit ...'

**THIS ENMITY IS A SATANIC SPIRIT** that now works in the hearts of the 'sons of disobedience'. (See Ephesians 2:2)

BUT WHERE MANKIND FAILS ... GOD SUCCEEDS WITH A PERFECT ... PERPETUAL ... AND PERMENANT PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLE OF EVERY RACE, GENDER, SOCIAL STANDING & INTELLIGENCE ...

**When Jesus died**, God had more in mind than to just **bring us to heaven** ...

It was to **bring us into the Image of His Son** ...

But more also ... IT WAS **TO BRING US & ALL THINGS INTO PERFECT UNITY** & HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER.

Ephesians 1:9-10 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*And He [God] has made known to us **the mystery of His will** according to His good pleasure, which He purposed **in Christ**<sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, **to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.***

SO, HOW IS GOD GOING TO ACCOMPLISH THIS?  
**IN HIS BODY**

Ephesians 2:16 KJV Paraphrased **SLIDE**

<sup>15</sup>*[Jesus created] One New Man ...* <sup>16</sup>*[that He might] reconcile both [Jew & Gentile] to God **in one body** ... having slain the enmity [hostility] by the cross.*

GOD DOESN'T TRY TO CONNECT PEOPLE **PHILOSOPHICALLY ... CULTURALLY ... IDEOLOGICALLY ...**

(There will always be differences between us) ...

IT'S NOT BY **EDUCATION ... MEDITATION ... MEDIATION ... DOMINATION ... OR INTIMIDATION ...**

GOD'S WAY OF TRULY CONNECTING PEOPLE IS SPIRITUALLY IN **ONE SPIRITUAL BODY CALLED** – THE BODY OF CHRIST - THE CHURCH.

HE HAS NOW CREATED **A PURE & PERFECT PLACE** OF DEEP HARMONY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1 Corinthians 12:13 **SLIDE**

*For in **One Spirit** we are All baptized **into One Body** ...*

**THIS SPIRITUAL BODY IS A REAL SPIRITUAL PLACE** THAT NOW EXISTS UPON THE EARTH.

There is no other place like it upon the earth ... neither has there ever been.

This Place has superseded **The Holy Land ... The Holy Temple ... and The Holy Of Holies ...**

**THIS IS GOD'S DWELLING PLACE AMONG US ...**

Ephesians 2:22 English Standard Bible

*In him you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.***

**THIS PLACE IS THE PLACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AMONG US**

*There is no great or small ... no rich or poor ... no intellectual superiority ... no class structure ... no famous people ... no cool or uncool ... no power play ... no domination ... no weak or strong ...*

Isaiah 65:25 **SLIDE**

*“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox ... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all **My Holy Mountain,**” says the LORD.*

**THIS IS THE BODY ... THIS IS THE CHURCH ... WHERE TOTAL OPPOSITES CONNECT & **ALL BECOME ONE IN SPIRIT** ...**

**IN THIS SPIRITUAL BODY ... THERE ARE 2 UNIQUE QUALITIES THAT FLOW FREELY ...**

- **THERE IS THE ABSENCE OF ALL ENMITY – HOSTILITY**
- **THERE IS THE PRESENCE OF ABSOLUTE RECONCILIATION**

## ONE A NEGATIVE ASPECT & ONE A POSITIVE ASPECT

### ➤ THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL ENMITY

LET'S LOOK AT THE FIRST QUALITY – THE NEGATIVE SIDE THAT JESUS OVERCAME ON THE CROSS

Ephesians 2:16 Paraphrased **SLIDE**

*[That He might] reconcile both [Jew & Gentile] to God in one body by the cross ... **killing the enmity** (or **BY** killing the enmity)*

Enmity / Hostility (echthran – echthra – echthros) **Enmity, hostility, hatred; From which we get our word 'Enemy'**

**NB:** I have changed the KJV to read more like the original because in the KJV and NKJV it says *Jesus reconciled the Jew and Gentile to God 'thereby' killing the enmity* ... which makes it read like **the enmity was killed as a result of The Reconciliation.**

BUT IT WAS NOT. THERE IS NO 'THEREBY' in the original.

So, if we read it as it should be read – *Jesus reconciled the Jew and Gentile to God 'BY' killing the enmity* – we start to see that reconciliation came about because of the killing of the enmity.

**SLIDE** IT WASN'T THE RECONCILING OF JEW & GENTILE TO GOD THAT KILLED THE ENMITY ... **IT WAS KILLING THE ENMITY THAT ALLOWED THE RECONCILIATION** OF JEW TO GENTILE & MAN TO GOD.

THE ENMITY WAS OVERCOME **BEFORE RECONCILIATION CAME.**

**NB:** THIS ENMITY WAS **THAT SPIRIT** THAT HAD ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN AT THE GARDEN AND WHICH JESUS CHRIST DEFEATED ON THE CROSS.

**IT WASN'T THE ACT OF ENMITY & DIVISION THAT WAS DEALT WITH ON THE CROSS ... IT WAS THE SPIRIT OF ENMITY.**

**SLIDE** IT WAS SPIRITUAL ENMITY ... that Hostility... Hatred ... Animosity ... Bitterness ... that lay deep **in the heart of unregenerate man** and that was **unleashed upon Jesus** as he hung upon the cross.

IT WAS **THAT SATANIC SPIRIT** WITH ALL IT'S TWISTED BITTERNESS & HATRED FOR MANKIND ...

Colossians 2:15 Berean Study Bible **SAME SLIDE**

... *Having disarmed the [satanic] powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross.***

**NB: JESUS NEVER BECAME EMBITTERED ... HATEFUL ...**

**HOSTILE ...**

**THE SATANIC SPIRIT NEVER OVERCAME HIM & HE TRIUMPHED OVER IT.**

This means whenever Jesus – the Prince of Peace – declares ‘**Peace be to you**’ ... all hatred in you crumbles ... all bitterness flows away ... and all enmity dissolves ...

We also **see in our texts from last week and this week THAT THE WORD ‘ENMITY’ IS MENTIONED TWICE.**

This word ‘enmity’ is the same Greek word used in both verses. **BUT IN EACH VERSE IT IS GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.**

Ephesians 2:15

*Having **abolished slain in His flesh the enmity** ... so as to create in Himself **one new man** from the two, thus making peace.*

**In verse 15** we are told Jesus dealt with the enmity that existed between **the Jew** and the Gentile.

**THIS ENMITY EXISTED IN A HORIZONTAL DIRECTION.**

**In verse 16** we are told Jesus dealt with the enmity that existed between **the Gentile** and God.

**THIS ENMITY EXISTED IN A VERTICAL DIRECTION.**

**JESUS SLEW ENMITY IN ALL DIRECTIONS**

**SO THE TRUE BODY IS A PLACE DEVOID OF ALL ENMITY –  
TOWARD GOD & BETWEEN MAN**

**BUT JESUS DIDN'T LEAVE IT THERE**

**THAT WAS THE NEGATIVE AND JESUS TAKES AWAY THE NEGATIVE SO HE CAN USHER IN THE POSITIVE.**

**LET'S LOOK AT THE SECOND QUALITY JESUS BROUGHT AS A RESULT OF THE CROSS.**

## ➤ JESUS USHERS IN 'THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION

Ephesians 2:16 KJV Paraphrased **SLIDE**

<sup>15</sup>*[Jesus created] in Himself one new man...*

<sup>16</sup>*[That He might] reconcile both [Jew & Gentile] to God in one body by the cross ... [by] killing the enmity.*

**GOD NEVER DID HAVE ENMITY ... MAN HAD ENMITY WITH GOD  
GOD HAS ALREADY RECONCILED HIMSELF TO MAN ...**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ ... <sup>19</sup>that is ... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them ...*

**IN THIS RECONCILIATION MAN NOW NEEDS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD & EACH OTHER.**

### **THE POWER OF THIS RECONCILIATION**

**THIS IS FAR MORE THAN SOME ADJUDICATOR CAUSING TWO ENEMIES TO SHAKE HANDS & MAKE UP!**

**When that happens the enmity is still in their hearts but only subdued ...**

*It was clearly shown in the third 'Godfather' movie where two Italian Mafia men who hated each other, came to the godfather to complain about each other.*

**SLIDE** *The godfather gets them both in his room and tells them to 'make peace'.*

*They hug and the older guy whispers something smart in the ear of the younger guy who correspondingly bites the older man's ear so hard it bleeds.*

**THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW INEFFECTIVE MAN'S RECONCILIATION IS.**

### **BUT THIS RECONCILIATION GOES FAR DEEPER**

**THIS RECONCILIATION MEANS –**

Apokatallaxē - Verb - Aorist Subjunctive Active - 3rd Person Singular  
*To reconcile, change from one state of feeling to another.*  
*From apo and katallasso; to reconcile fully.*

**IT IS A SPIRITUAL POWER ...**

To reconcile completely ... inwardly ...

To completely change from one condition of heart to another ...

**To change from one state of feeling to another ...**

From a feeling of hate to now a feeling of love ...

Once arch enemies ... now friends for life ...

To remove all enmity so that there is no impediment left ...

Reconciliation from the inside out ...

**Feelings changed ...**

From negative enmity to positive empathy ...

From animosity to amnesty ...

**A complete 180% turnaround.**

**SLIDE**

**THERE IS NOW A LIVING, BREATHING BODY OF RECONCILIATION**

This living Body – The Church – is saturated with The Spirit of Peace-with-God and each other ...

And **Reconciliation is in the very atmosphere.**

**PSALM 133 THE PSALM OF PERFECT UNITY SLIDES x 2**

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for **brethren to dwell together in unity!***

<sup>2</sup> *It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.*

<sup>3</sup> *It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.*

**Verse 1 ... THIS UNITY AMONG US IS VISIBLE TO THOSE OUTSIDE**

It is so unusual in this world of division and disunity ... that it shines as The Light of The World.

‘By this Love will all men know you are My disciples ... (see John 13:35)

**Verse 2 ... THIS UNITY FLOWS FROM THE ANOINTING OF OUR RESURRECTED HIGH-PRIEST (of whom Aaron is a type)**

**NB: THE UNITY DOESN'T BRING THE ANOINTING – THE ANOINTING BRINGS THIS UNITY.**

Aaron was the first High-Priest ... and was anointed – consecrated and enabled – to hold his position.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THIS ANOINTING**

But look what happens –

**HE FLOWS DOWN THE BEARD ...**

(The priests were not allowed to cut their beard as a sign of separation from the world and sanctification to God)

**THE BEARD SPEAKS OF HOLINESS.**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT FLOWS DOWN INTO THE BODY ...**

We are that Body ...

**THAT ANOINTING FROM HEAVEN FLOWS AMONG US IN THE BODY AND DOWN TO THE LOWEST PART ...** the least of us ... the poor struggling believer ... the one who fails ...

**THIS ANOINTING BRINGS & LEAVES A PURE AND SWEET SMELL ... PLEASANTNESS ... GOODNESS ...**

**VERSE 3 ... THIS UNITY BRINGS LIFE & REFRESHING.**

Hermon is one of the highest peaks of Hebron and its dew flowed down and watered Mt Zion – The Church.

**IT IS *THE ALWAYS-FRESH ANOINTING OF HIS WORD* ... HIS GOOD NEWS ... SHARED AMONG US ...**

**HERE GOD COMMANDS BLESSING.**

**WHERE?**

**IN THE BODY ...**

**IN THE SPIRIT OF UNITY**

**Ephesians 1:3 tells us we are blessed with every spiritual blessing BUT HERE IN OUR FELLOWSHIP WE EXPERIENCE IT.**

**FELLOWSHIPPING WITH THE BODY**

I have to ask ... if you understand this – what the True Church is – why would you stay away?

It's often people's flesh that keep them from coming to fellowship.

**WHAT SHOULD OUR ATTITUDE BE?**

**IT SHOULD BE LIKE DAVID –**



Psalm 122:1 **SLIDE**

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

**HAVE YOU SEEN IT? HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED IT?**

**IT IS HERE AMONG US ...**

**YOU MISS SO MUCH WHEN YOU STAY AWAY.**

**Here in this spirit ... all your bitterness is dissolved ...**

**You are refreshed with pure love for God and your brother and sister ...**

**If this is real for you ... you will run to your sister / brother to be reconciled ... you will reach out to your brother / sister ...**

*I remember years ago seeing several times ... people weeping in each other's arms as they surrendered to their new life in the New Creation Church.*

*I remember hearing someone say about a person they hated as they now embraced in tears, 'I can't even remember what the issue was ... I just love you.'*

**SO WHY IS THERE STILL SO MUCH DIVISION AMONGST  
CHRISTIANS? –**

**WE WILL TALK ABOUT THIS NEXT WEEK ...**