

# ONE NEW MAN IN CHRIST JESUS

## Part 12 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:14-15 **SLIDE**

... He Himself is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation,<sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, [having abolished] the law of commandments ~~contained in ordinances~~, so as to create in Himself one new man from-[replacing] the two, thus making peace.

**There is a great pandemic in the Earth today!**

*No, I don't mean Covid-19.*

This is the pandemic of discord, division and disunity between **all people** and nations.

**THIS PANDEMIC ACTUALLY CREATES SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

This pandemic has been here since Adam and Eve fell in The Garden of Edam and it came about because of **THE SIN VIRUS**.

Adam and Eve were in perfect harmony – **at peace with each other**, until that disastrous day when they disobeyed God.

Straight after this we read about them hiding from God when He came walking in the garden (Gen 3:8).

**THIS WAS THE FIRST DIVISION – MAN SEPARATING HIMSELF FROM GOD.**

Next we read **Adam blaming Eve** for giving him the fruit to eat (Gen 3:12) – **This was the first domestic dispute.**

But it got worse! A few verses on we read that **Cain killed his brother Abel**. (Gen 4:8)

Then in Genesis 6:11 – just before The Great Flood – we read, **'The Earth was filled with violence'**.

And even after the flood ... this discord, division and disunity continued.

**IF ONLY THERE WAS AN ANTIDOTE FOR THIS PANDEMIC ...**

**FRIEND'S ... GOD HAS COME UP WITH A FOOLPROOF CURE.**

**GOD HAS MADE A WAY TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN RIVAL FACTIONS**

This is what we see here **in our text**.

We see God making two opposing people, the Jew and the Gentile, become one ... this being the hardest of all scenarios ...

**SAME SLIDE** NB: IN OUR TEXT THE KEY WORDS, 'BOTH' & 'THE TWO'

**SLIDE** ACCORDING TO THE JEW (and Scripture) THERE ARE ONLY **TWO GROUPS** OF PEOPLE IN THE EARTH ...

- **THERE IS THEMSELVES / ISRAEL AND**
- **THERE IS EVERYBODY ELSE WHO ARE NON-JEWS CALLED 'GENTILES'**

So, the focus here is on the reconciliation of these two groups – **Jews and Gentiles**.

And this is also the key to the reconciliation of all other people in life.

### **A HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE TASK**

We see how **humanly impossible** this reconciliation is when we look at all the failed 'peace-talks' that have been held with Israel.

**SINCE 1967 THERE HAVE BEEN 11 FAILED MIDDLE EAST PEACE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAEL & THE ARAB NATIONS.**

TABA AGREEMENT, 2001 –

*The Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak said that "nothing is agreed upon until everything is agreed upon".*

**SO, WHY IS THE JEW SO UNBENDING & UNWILLING TO COMPROMISE?**

THE JEW KNOWS HE HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE **'ORACLES OF GOD'** AND THE GENTILE HAS NOT BEEN.

Romans 3:2

*... To them [The Jews] were committed **the oracles of God**.*

**THE ORACLES OF GOD ARE MORE THAN JUST THE LAW** –

**THEY ARE ALL THE WORDS & REVELATIONS OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ...**

**THE ORACLES OF GOD INCLUDE –**

- **THE CREATION OF THE WORLD**

- **ISRAEL'S RECORDED HISTORY**
- **THE MORAL STANDARDS OF THE CREATOR GOD**
- **THE PRACTICAL WISDOM OF LIFE** (eg Proverbs)
- **THE PROPHETIC PROMISES REGARDING THE MESSIAH**

**THESE ORACLES OF GOD WERE SPOKEN, WRITTEN, LIVED AND PERFORMED BY ISRAEL OVER APPROXIMATELY 6000 YEARS ...**

**And all collated into the collection of the BOOKS OF HISTORY, MORALS, PRACTICAL WISDOM, PROPHETIC PROMISES, AND INSPIRATIONAL POEMS AND PRAISE that make up the Old Testament,**

**EVEN THOUGH ISRAEL DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THEM.**

- **HOW THEN, COULD A JEW ALLOW A GENTILE TOURIST WHO DOES NOT SEE THE VALUE OF THESE THINGS TO SHARE THIS PRICELESS TREASURE**

**THE JEW RIGHTLY KNOWS THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD – YAHWEH – THE ONLY TRUE GOD ... AND HE IS HOLY.**

- **HOW COULD A JEW UNITE WITH AN UNBELIVING GENTILE WHO EITHER DOESN'T BELIEVE IN **ANY GOD** OR WHO HAS **MANY GODS****

**THE JEW RIGHTLY BELIEVES THAT GOD – ADONI – CREATED THE HEAVENS & THE EARTH.**

- **HOW COULD A JEW UNITE WITH AN UNBELIEVING GENTILE WHO BELIEVES IN A MADE-UP STORY CALLED, '**EVOLUTION**' WHERE MAN CAME FROM ANIMALS**

**THE JEW ALSO HAD **THE LAW OF MOSES** ... **THE ARK OF THE COVENANT** ... **THE SACRED TEMPLE** ... AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITH THEM ...**

- **HOW COULD A JEW UNITE WITH A GENTILE WHO HAS MANY TEMPLES WITH ALL DIFFERENT IDOLS ... ALL OF WHICH ARE DEVOID OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

So, the Jew remains completely unbending ... stubbornly obstinate ... in their stand for what is right.

**They know they are God's Chosen People.**

They have proved they will die for what **they hold dear** and protect it in tact with their lives.

They are an impenetrable wall of **no compromise**.

*QUIP: Catholic priest at a banquet with a Jewish Rabbi who refuses to eat the ham, says, 'When are you Jews going to get over your old fashioned – legalistic customs and eat ham?'*

*The Rabbi says, 'I'll eat ham at your wedding!'*

## **PREJUDICE**

On top of all this we also have the Jewish prejudice.

We spoke about it last week.

We see in verse Ephesians 2:11 where the Jews very scathingly call the Gentiles 'uncircumcised' ...

**SO WE SEE IN OUR TEXT, ONE OF THE AMAZING THINGS JESUS HAS DONE TO BRING THE JEW & GENTILE TOGETHER, IS ...**

**REMOVE THE MIDDLE WALL OF SEPARATION / PREJUDICE.**

Ephesians 2:14-15 **SLIDE**

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one and **has broken down the middle wall of separation** ... having abolished in His flesh the enmity ...*

**SLIDE THIS REFERS TO THE WALL OF PARTITION THAT DIVIDED THE GENTILES FROM THE JEWS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

In the Temple area, there was literally a wall that segregated Gentiles from Jews. No Gentile was allowed to cross that dividing line.

***There is pillar now preserved in the Museum at Constantinople which was on this wall, with a Greek inscription in capital letters: NO MAN OF ANOTHER NATION TO ENTER WITHIN THE FENCE AND ENCLOSURE ROUND THE TEMPLE. AND WHOEVER IS CAUGHT WILL HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME THAT HIS DEATH ENSUES.***

**NB:** THIS COURT OF THE GENTILES IS WHERE JESUS TURNED OVER THE TABLES ...

**BUT LOOK WHAT JESUS HAS DONE WHEN HE DIED!!!**

*Jesus has completely destroyed this middle **wall of prejudice** by taking upon Himself **the bitter enmity** and dissolving it. Enmity ... jealousy ... bitterness ... scorn ... were all cancelled in Jesus on the cross ... and were forgiven.*

**N.B:** *In the temple, the COURT OF THE GENTILES WAS THE **FARTHEST OUT** ... Which is why verse 13 tells us – ‘YOU [GENTILES] WHO WERE **FAR OFF** HAVE BEEN **BROUGHT NEAR** BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.’ (Not by the blood of bulls and goats)*

**N.B.** THESE TWO GROUPS ALSO REPRESENT **ALL DIVIDED GROUPS** WITH ‘**IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES**’ (A term used to justify divorce)

Black and white / male and female / rich and poor ...

**N.B.** HE DOES NOT MAKE PEACE BETWEEN DIVIDED NATIONS ... HE ONLY MAKES PEACE WITH DIVIDED INDIVIDUALS ...

**SO HOW DOES JESUS MAKE THESE TWO DIVIDED GROUPS ONE?**

*He doesn't sit down and have peace talks and win ‘THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE’.*

*He doesn't write songs like, ‘All we are saying ... is give peace a chance’.*

HERE IN OUR VERSES WE ARE SHOWN THE DETAIL OF **HOW** CHRIST BROUGHT ABOUT HARMONY.

**HOW DID HE RECONCILE TWO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED GROUPS?**

**JESUS HAS CREATED ‘ONE NEW MAN’**

Ephesians 2:14-15 **SLIDE**

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation,<sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, ~~that is,~~ [having abolished] the law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so-as in order that he might create in Himself one new man** ~~from~~ [replacing] the two, thus making peace.*

## WHO OR WHAT IS THIS NEW MAN?

*All these years I thought this 'New Man' referred to Jesus Himself, until I came to study this and realised it wasn't referring to Jesus.*

**THIS NEW MAN IS THE BODY OF CHRIST ...  
THIS IS THE CHURCH.**

We see it much clearer in verse 16 –

Ephesians 2:16 **SLIDE**

*... That He might reconcile them both to God **in one body** through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

**THIS IS THE NEW MAN OF WHICH CHRIST IS THE HEAD ...**

*Ephesians 1:22-23*

*... He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to **the church**,<sup>23</sup> **which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

➤ **THE CHURCH IS AN ENTIRELY NEW CREATION**

**NOTICE 'HE CREATED'**

Ephesians 2:14-15 **SLIDE**

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one ... <sup>15</sup>**in order that he might create in Himself one new man** [replacing] the two, thus making peace.*

**HE CREATED (HE DIDN'T MAKE) ONE NEW MAN.**

This is not an improvement / not a new agreement on codes and conduct / **not 'one world religion' (an abomination).**

**THIS IS SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW.**

**HE HAS CREATED SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW THAT WAS NEVER THERE BEFORE ... NEVER KNOWN BEFORE.**  
**HE BROUGHT AN ENTIRELY NEW ENTITY INTO BEING.**

Galatians 6:15-16 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is **a new creation**.<sup>16</sup> Peace and mercy to all who walk by this rule, even to the Israel of God.*

**THIS NEW CREATION IS THE 'NEW MAN' - THE CHURCH**

**IN 2 Corinthians 5:17 WE ARE TOLD WE HAVE ALL BEEN**

- **BORN AGAIN AS AN INDIVIDUAL NEW CREATION BUT ...**
- **WE HAVE ALSO BECOME MEMBERS OF A COLLECTIVE NEW CREATION.**

**THIS IS THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH**

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
We are a new creation by water and the Word.*

*Author: S. J. Stone 1886*

**SLIDE THIS IS NOT THE JEW AND  
THE CHRISTIAN BECOMING ONE**

**SLIDE**

**THIS IS JEW & GENTILE UNITED IN ONE MESSIAH EQUALLY  
AS CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS**

**SLIDE**

**THIS IS THE PEOPLE OF THE OLD COVENANT  
AND THE PEOPLE OF NO COVENANT (Ephesians 2:12)  
UNITING IN THE NEW COVENANT (A NEW CREATION)**

➤ **THE CHURCH MEMBERS ALL HAVE A NEW IDENTITY**

Galatians 3:28 **SLIDE**

*There is **neither Jew nor Gentile**, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

**This is not the Jew coming over to the Gentile way of religion.  
Neither is it the Gentile embracing the Jewish ways and getting  
circumcised ... or starting to keep Sabbaths ... OR KEEPING THE  
FEAST DAYS.**

**Paul withstood Peter who was saying you must be circumcised.**  
(Galatians 2:11-14)

**THERE ARE *NO GENTILES* IN CHRISTIANITY  
THERE ARE *NO JEWS* IN CHRISTIANITY  
THERE ARE ONLY CHRISTIANS IN CHRISTIANITY**

- YOU CAN ONLY BE JOINED TO THE CHURCH **BY NEW BIRTH**

***WE ARE BORN INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST.  
YOU DON'T JOIN THIS BODY BY SIGNING IN ...  
YOU ARE BORN INTO IT ... OR BAPTISED INTO IT ...***

1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV **SLIDE**

*For in one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body** — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

***(COMING OUT OF THE WATER IN BAPTISM IS THE SYMBOL OF BEING BORN AGAIN TO NEW LIFE)***

- THE CHURCH IS THE ONLY PLACE OF TRUE PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLE ON EARTH

Ephesians 2:14-15 **SLIDE**

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one ... <sup>15</sup>in order that he might create in Himself one new man [replacing] the two, **thus making peace.***

Peace between **all people** is the nature of the Christian church ... This **deep and genuine peace** between people is only found in this 'new body'.

**NB.** This making peace does not apply to nations ... **only individuals.**

This harmony and reconciliation is a result of Jesus Himself ... He Himself is our peace.

***Unity is already established.***

*We don't need to sing anymore ...*

*'Father make us one ...'*

*Or ...*

*'We pray that all unity will one day be restored'.*

***WE ALREADY HAVE UNITY ...***

***AS PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, A NEW MAN IN HIM.***