

BORN IN US TODAY



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December 7, 2025

Trey Postelle

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

SUMMARY

Oftentimes, the word peace is associated with war or conflict, and rightfully so. We often don’t think of ourselves or others as being at war with God or with one another, yet for the person who is not in Christ, they are indeed at war against God and others. But Christ, such a beautiful conjunction, has come and fought the war for us, and in his victory, he births in us his peace. Peace first with God and with those who are found in Christ. Our response, both individually and as the whole body of Christ, is to cherish Christ’s peace so that we may glorify God and not ourselves. Born in us is a peace that isn’t temporary for just the Christmas season, but one that brings deep and eternal satisfaction in Christ. It is a peace that tears down the walls of hostility

between people from every tribe and tongue and builds a kingdom full of people who have one means of being at peace with one another, King Jesus.

Psalm 103:1-5

- ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

FOR THE BRIDE OF CHRIST TO CHERISH CHRIST'S PEACE WE
HAVE TO FIRST REMEMBER HIS WORK IN ONE ANOTHER.

WE ARE TO CHERISH PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST.

WE CHERISH CHRIST'S PEACE BY CHERISHING HIS KINGDOM
THAT HE IS BUILDING THROUGH THEM.

Geoffrey Wilson quoting T.K. Abbot.

"The word does not refer to personal holiness, but to membership of the spiritual commonwealth to which Jewish and Gentile Christians alike belong. And what is even more amazing, they have been brought into the household of faith, not as servants or slaves, but as full members of the Father's family, his children by the adoption of grace."

Mark Dever in his book says, "Our togetherness helps display the gospel."

THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS CHERISHED WHEN HIS BRIDE
CHERISHES HIS WORK IN THEM, CHERISHES ONE ANOTHER IN
CHRIST, AND CHERISHES HIS KINGDOM THAT HE IS BUILDING
THROUGH THEM.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Romans 4:16–5:2. According to Paul, how is true peace with God attained? And based on this passage, what does that peace produce in the life of a believer?
2. How often do you intentionally remember where God has brought you from? What helps you practice this kind of reflection?
3. If you are a believer, how has the Lord shaped your view of people who look, think, or live differently from you?
4. Has there been a time when someone (other than your spouse) entered your life and became deeply cherished? What qualities in that person fostered that bond?
5. Do we genuinely cherish other believers in Christ? How often do we intentionally engage brothers and sisters who may look or think differently from us?
6. How can we grow as a body that visibly displays the gospel through our unity and togetherness? What are some ways we are already practicing this, and where might we grow further?

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