

Sunday – December 2, 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent



“Peace in My Relationships”
Ephesians 2:14-22

“Let’s just get through the holidays.” Sound familiar? For many this season is one of celebrations with family in friends. For some it is a harsh reminder of broken families and relationships that have festered all year. For others, a simple call for a “cease fire” between them.

KEY VERSE: *“He himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing in his flesh, the law and its commandments and regulations.” (Ephesians 2:15)*

Last week our theme was, “Peace with myself.” When I step into the identity God has given to me, I find peace. This week we look at the peace that God can provide in my personal relationships- especially among those in which I have built walls between us.

The Ephesian church is one that is in conflict. Jewish believers thinking Jesus only was for them. Gentile believers who were treated as outsiders and resented it. Paul writes to ensure them that God has called them to be one.

Read *Ephesians 1:3-5*. How does Paul begin his call to the church to be united? What type of language, words does he use to describe their relationship with Jesus, and each other?

Read *Ephesians 1:19-21*. For Paul, from where does Paul’s idea of the power of unity come? How does this differ from my ideas?

Read *Ephesians 2:12*. Paul says I was “far away” from Jesus. How do I treat other groups of people as being “further away” from Jesus than I was?

God wants to build _____ when I want to _____ a _____ . Can I think of a time I did this? What was the result?

Paul uses the phrase, “dividing wall of hostility.” What hostile walls have I, am I building now?

Read *Ephesians 2:15-18*. What has Jesus done to turn things around in my relationships?

Am I willing to let him turn things around and bring peace?

Read *John 17:23*. For what is Jesus praying for his family (us)? Have I seen this prayer answered?

THIS WEEK

- What hostile walls have I built?
- Into what relationship do I have that I need to invite in the God of peace?
- Am I willing to let Him work?