

## THE POWER OF PEACE



### Notes:

1.

2.

3.

# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of November 18, 2018

Eph 2:11-22

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that Christ's power has given us peace with God, with others, and ourselves. Describe the characteristics of a person living in light of this understanding.
- 2 What are some of the "walls" the church and Christians have placed between themselves and God? Between themselves and non-Christians? Explain.
- 3 How can Christians move towards breaking through these "walls" in their own lives and the life of the church?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1 *Is 56:6-8, ESV* – <sup>6</sup>“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— <sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” <sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

*Col 1:21-22, ESV* – <sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

Looking at the passages above, we see that God was, and is, gathering people to himself. Describe who these people are. What role does Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit play in the gathering of people?

What was expected of those He gathered to himself? Are these expectations any different today? Explain.

2

**John 10:16, ESV** – <sup>16</sup> *And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

**Eph 4:23-24, ESV** – <sup>22</sup> *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,* <sup>23</sup> *and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,* <sup>24</sup> *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.* <sup>25</sup> *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

**Col 3:15, ESV** – <sup>15</sup> *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*

When reading verses about the work of reconciliation through Christ, we see that He called us into one body with other believers. What insights do the previous verses give regarding this new flock of “humanity”?

In what specific ways can you “let the peace of Christ rule in your heart”?

Describe a time when you have been a person of peace to overcome walls and barriers between yourself and others.

3

**1 Peter 2:4-5, ESV** – <sup>4</sup> *As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,* <sup>5</sup> *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

**2 Cor 5:18-20, ESV** – <sup>18</sup> *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;* <sup>19</sup> *that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.* <sup>20</sup> *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

Based on the passages above, why has God reconciled us to himself? To each other?

Peter describes believers as a “living stone being built up as a spiritual house.” How is this significant in regards to the way we interact with other believers?

## TAKING IT HOME

Paul reminds us that God has given us peace with himself and each other through Jesus Christ. As you think through the sermon and this week’s study, how does having God’s power of peace change the way you interact with God and with others? What is your next step in becoming the “person of peace” that God has called you to be?

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Is 57:19

Matt 5:17; 16:16-18

John 14:6

2 Cor 3:4-6; 5:19; 6:14-7:1

Gal 3:23-29; 4:6-11