

## The Church Family

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:13-22

### 1. People of Peace vs. 13-18

Through Jesus Christ's sacrifice, Christ uses peace to eliminate the hostility between Jews and Gentiles, and provides reconciliation so one new humanity would be created through Him out of the two; one new humanity that has access to Father God through the Holy Spirit.

Remember! Through Jesus Christ's sacrifice, Christ uses peace so the church will have no division, but rather Jesus provides reconciliation so one new humanity would be created through Him; one new humanity that has access to Father God through the Holy Spirit.

### 2. People of God; the Dwelling Place of God vs. 19-22

In Christ, the Gentiles are built together with the Jews to be a dwelling of God in the Spirit; bound together as members of God's household and have become the temple in the Lord.

In Christ, every person who comes to faith in Jesus Christ are built together to be a dwelling of God in the Spirit; members of God's household and bound together to become the church where Jesus is the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"

<sup>29</sup> "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as

much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.<sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (Mark 10:23-31)

### 3. A Place to Experience Family vs. 23-29

Jesus says even in this age, it is always worth it to follow Him. Whatever we leave, Jesus will replace far more than we can imagine. We will always receive from Him more than what we leave behind for Him.

The promise that Jesus gives involves us to help fulfill it. We are the brothers, and sisters and daughters, mothers and children that Jesus is referring to. God uses the church family to cause people who don't have family to begin experiencing family.

**When we choose to live out Jesus’ promise, we become a family that is greater in size, where we can worship together and truly love each other the way God calls us to love.**

#### *Affirm*

- Romans 12:10: “Honor one another”
- James 5:9: “Don’t grumble against each other”
- Romans 12:3-8: Confirm the gifts of one another
- Romans 15:7: “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you”
- 1 Corinthians 12:25: “Have equal concern for each other”
- James 2:1: “Don’t show favoritism”
- Romans 16:16: “Greet one another with a holy kiss”
- James 1:19: “Be quick to listen, slow to speak”

- Ephesians 4:32: “Be kind and compassionate to one another”
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12: “[May] your love increase and overflow for each other”

#### *Share*

- Romans 12:10: “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love”
- 1 Peter 4:9: “Offer hospitality to one another”
- Galatians 6:10: “As we have opportunity, let us do good”
- Galatians 6:2: “Carry each other’s burdens”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11: “Encourage one another”
- Hebrews 3:13: “Encourage one another daily”
- Colossians 3:16: “Teach and admonish one another”
- Ephesians 5:19: “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”
- Romans 12:16: “Live in harmony with one another”
- 1 Corinthians 1:10: “Agree with one another”

#### *Serve*

- Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15: Reestablish broken relationships with one another
- James 5:16: “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other”
- Colossians 3:13: “Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another”
- Ephesians 4:25: “Speak truthfully”
- Ephesians 4:2: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love”
- Galatians 5:25: Don’t provoke or envy one another