

Ephesians 2:14-22
Built To Gather

1.Christ Our Peace 14-18

A. The Situation Solved Ephesians 2:11-13

“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” -Colossians 2:11-14 ESV

B. Jesus Is Our Peace 14

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 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, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.” Colossians 1:21-23 ESV

“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.” -Ephesians 4:17-18 ESV

C. A Description of the Battle 15-16

D. He Preached Peace to both Groups 17

“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite. For I will not contend forever, nor will I always be angry; for the spirit would grow faint before me, and the breath of life that I made. Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was angry, I struck him; I hid my face and was angry, but he went on backsliding in the way of his own heart. I have seen his ways, but I will

heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners, creating the fruit of the lips. **Peace, peace, to the far and to the near,” says the Lord, “and I will heal him.”** -Isaiah 57:15-19 ESV

E. Access to the Father 18

”Now most Christians are theological Christians. They know they are saved; somebody’s given them a marked New Testament and it’s proper that we should until they get their theology straight. But they’re trying to be happy without a sense of the Presence. The sense of the Presence is absent and that yearning you see is a desire to be nearer to God.”
AW Tozer, *The Attributes of God*

2. Who We Are as a Result 19-21

A. No Longer 19

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

B. Foundation 20

C. A Temple 21

“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.” -1 Peter 2:5 ESV

3. Built Together 22

A. In Him

B. In Process

C. Whether Churches Live or Die

“I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.” -1 Kings 8:13 ESV

“Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, “Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son.” But she did not answer or pay attention. And she named the child Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel!” because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. And she said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”” -1 Samuel 4:19-22 ESV

“Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.” Ezekiel 10:18-19 ESV

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

*Reflection: How are you being built up into this dwelling place of God?
How are you investing in the lives of others as a part of Jesus' church?*

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Colossians 2:11-14. Describe the reality that Jesus Christ has accomplished and what He has done according to this passage of Scripture. What part of this passage strikes you especially in your walk with Jesus?

Tuesday: Colossians 1:21-23. How would you describe the peace that Jesus brings into a person's life after accepting Him as Lord and Savior? How do these verses describe that peace?

Wednesday: Isaiah 57:15-19. What are some of the characteristics of God that these verses describe? Specifically consider verse 15 and how that impacts a believer's life?

Thursday: Ephesians 2:8-10. How do these verses describe salvation in Jesus and what is the result of that salvation?

Friday: 1 Peter 2:5. How does Peter describe this dwelling place of God that Paul illustrated for us in Ephesians 2:21 and 22?

Saturday: Hebrews 10:24-25. According to these verses, why is the regular gathering of believers so important? How are you engaged in that gathering?