

**Ephesians 2:14-16**  
*Brought Together in Jesus*

**Main idea:** Through Jesus, we have peace with God and peace with one another.

I don't know if you've noticed, but there's a lot of hostility in the world.<sup>1</sup>

- People disagree about everything!<sup>2</sup>
- People go to war simply because they're born in different places to different families.<sup>3</sup>
- And sometimes, of course, war seems to be unavoidable in our broken world. [Ecclesiastes 3:8]
- And yet, God stepped into our brokenness in order to end all war and bring us together.<sup>4</sup>

Read Ephesians 2:14-16

The Nobel Peace Prize was first awarded in 1901, and has been given out most years since. [photo]

- Normally, there's a clear, uncontroversial winner.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2010, China disagreed with the choice of the recipient so they created their own award. [photo]
- Thankfully, God offers us something better than the world's version of a "peace prize."<sup>6</sup>

Jesus is our peace. (v. 14)

- Through Jesus, we have peace with God. [Romans 5:1]
- Through Jesus, we have peace with one another.<sup>7</sup>
  - In 2014, Jarom Thomas accidentally backed into his friend, Michael Galen's car.<sup>8</sup>
  - Jarom agreed to let his friend Michael punch him so that they would be even.<sup>9</sup> [photo]
  - God calls us to peace!<sup>10</sup>
- Jews saw Gentiles as unworthy of God's blessings.<sup>11</sup>
  - But the feelings were mutual.<sup>12</sup> [quote]<sup>13</sup>
  - And yet Paul wrote in our passage today that Jesus makes both groups one!<sup>14</sup>
  - Jesus tore down the wall of hostility.

One of God's purposes that He accomplished at the cross was to bring us together. (v. 15)

- In the orchestra in high school, there was a song we played that literally started out with chaos.<sup>15</sup>
- Gradually all of the instruments came together in perfect harmony.
- Through Jesus, God is bringing us all together as well!
  - Jesus accomplished this in His flesh.
  - God's law is perfect, and we ought to obey it.
  - And in the end, we will obey it.<sup>16</sup>
- Jesus fulfilled all of the law perfectly.
  - By accomplishing the law perfectly for us, He gave all of us the reward for His obedience.<sup>17</sup>
  - So we're no longer divided based on our obedience, but united based on Jesus.

Jesus reconciled us all to God. (v. 16)

- Both Jews and Gentiles are reconciled to God.
- And we're both reconciled to God in the same way: through Jesus.
- By dying for our sins on the cross, Jesus put to death our hostility toward one another.
- At least, that's the goal.
  - Are you hostile toward others?
  - Do you hold their sins against them?
  - God has called us to have peace, and to be peacemakers.<sup>18</sup>

## Endnotes

1. Galatians 5:19-21
2. Romans 14:1
3. This is such a shame because we aren't to wage war in the flesh. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4
4. Psalm 46:9
5. Such as Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1964 and Mother Teresa in 1979.
6. John 3:16
7. Colossians 3:15
8. <https://www.columbian.com/news/2015/mar/13/fatal-punch-no-charges-everett/>
9. Unfortunately, after getting hit, Jarom fell back, hit his head on concrete, and died. Michael was initially arrested under suspicion of homicide, but was released when other friends defended him.
10. Hebrews 12:14
11. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, many Rabbis even insisted that it was not lawful to help a Gentile woman in childbirth, for that would be to bring another Gentile into the world (<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/midwife-midrash-and-aggadah>). In many Jewish families, if a Jew married a Gentile, a symbolic funeral of that Jew was carried out (<https://bit.ly/Jew-marries-Gentile>).
12. Gentiles saw Jews as elitist, shrewd, antisocial, and rebellious against the government. Because of this, Gentiles often boycotted Jewish businesses, or taxed them more heavily, and even thought it was okay to let them suffer.
13. "Jews were generally considered in the ancient world to be hostile, prickly people, quick to take offense and unfriendly to aliens." -Martin Goodman, *The Ruling Class of Judaea: The Origins of the Jewish Revolt Against Rome AD 66-70*
14. 2 Corinthians 13:11
15. Our band director, Mr. Rauscher, told us to play as if we were warming up, each one of us doing our own thing, and together it all sounded like random noise.
16. Matthew 22:36-40
17. 1 Peter 3:18
18. Matthew 5:9, Romans 14:19