

***What can unite humanity?***

***Gentiles and Jews divided***

***Jesus is making one new people***

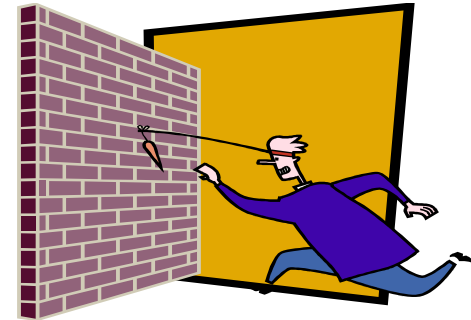
- a) Jesus has made peace between Jews and Gentiles**
  
- b) Jesus made peace by destroying the wall between them**
  
- c) Horizontal peace is linked to vertical peace with God**

***The depth of the peace we enjoy!***

- a) Citizens**
  
- b) Family**
  
- c) Temple**

**Ephesians study 3**

## **Forgiveness that transcends cultural barriers (part 1)**



**Ephesians 2:11–18**

<sup>11</sup> You were not born Jewish. You are the people the Jews call “uncircumcised.” Those who call you “uncircumcised” call themselves “circumcised.” (Their circumcision is only something they themselves do on their bodies.) <sup>12</sup> Remember that in the past you were without Christ. You were not citizens of Israel, and you had no part in the agreements with the promise that God made to his people. You had no hope, and you did not know God. <sup>13</sup> ***But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away from God are brought near through the blood of Christ’s death.***

<sup>14</sup> Christ himself is our peace. He made both Jewish people and those who are not Jews one people. They were separated as if there were a wall between them, but Christ broke down that wall of hate by giving his own body. <sup>15</sup> The Jewish law had many commands and rules, but Christ ended that law. His purpose was to make the two groups of people become one new people in him and in this way make peace. <sup>16</sup> It was also Christ’s purpose to end the hatred between the two groups, to make them into one body, and to bring them back to God. Christ did all this with his death on the cross. <sup>17</sup> Christ came and preached peace to you who were far away from God, and to those who were near to God. <sup>18</sup> Yes, it is through Christ we all have the right to come to the Father in one Spirit.

## New words

circumcised/uncircumcised – religious ceremony to mark a person’s Jewish heritage and God’s promise to the Jewish people.

## Discuss

If you had a disagreement with a friend and you think that your friend did the wrong thing how easy or difficult is it to forgive your friend? How would it affect your relationship with one another if your friend:

- a. admitted doing wrong and said sorry?
- b. did not admit doing wrong and did not say sorry?

## Read the passage.

Q. How did Paul describe non-Jewish people?

v11

v12

v13

Q. What is hope? Why does the Bible say that people who are far away from God have no hope?

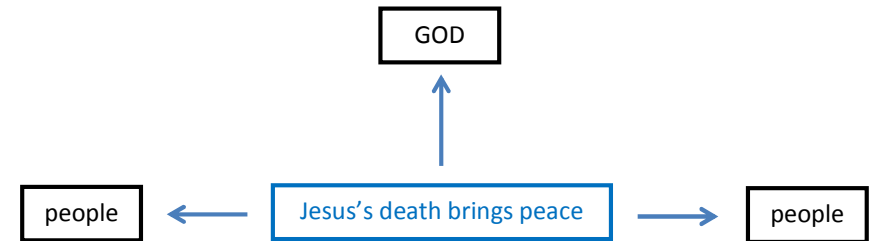
Q. According to v13, how does someone who is far away from God come near to God?

Q. How did Jesus’ death bring people near to God?

v14

## Summary

Jesus’ death on the cross repaired the broken relationships between God and humanity, and it also repaired the relationships between people.



## Think and discuss

1. Do you think you are far away from God or near to God?
2. Do you have a good relationship with Jesus?
3. Why is it so important for us to admit that we have wronged God?

## Application

4. Do you want to be near to God?
5. Do you know how to be near to God?

## Questions?