

A Pandemic Survival Kit Sermon Series

by Rev. John C. Tittle

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:13-22 NRSV

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS – How To Get Along

1. What jumps out at you about this passage?
2. Have you ever had a close friendship with someone different from you? What was special about it?
3. What do you think it means that Christ is our peace?
4. Why do we human beings have such a poor track record in our dealings with individuals and groups that are different from us?
5. The passage says that Jesus tore down the dividing wall of hostility between Jew and Gentile. What are some modern day dividing walls of hostilities between whites and blacks? How might Christ bring healing to those situations?
6. The message mentioned that today is a time to listen to the body of Christ and maybe some voices within it that are different than our own voices and voices that might challenge our assumptions. Do you agree that this is a wise approach for a time of racial tension? Why?
7. The Scripture passage mentions how crucial vertical reconciliation is with God and also horizontal reconciliation with other human beings is so important. Why are both included in God's plan of reconciliation for us?
8. How can the church today bring peace and healing to the racial divides we see all around us?