

Love

BEFORE

Labor

WHY WE SERVE FROM GRACE, NOT FOR IT

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Call to the Word
Eph 2:14-16

The Walls We Build – The Walls He Tore Down

When people who once hated each other stand together at the foot of the same cross, something changes.



Introduction

Five Tragic Realities

“Christless, stateless, friendless, hopeless, Godless .” (Guzik)

Bigotry grows in proud hearts that forget grace.

Eph 2:11-12

But now...

“Brought near” = Change in Status

And when God brings you near, you don't get to keep others far.

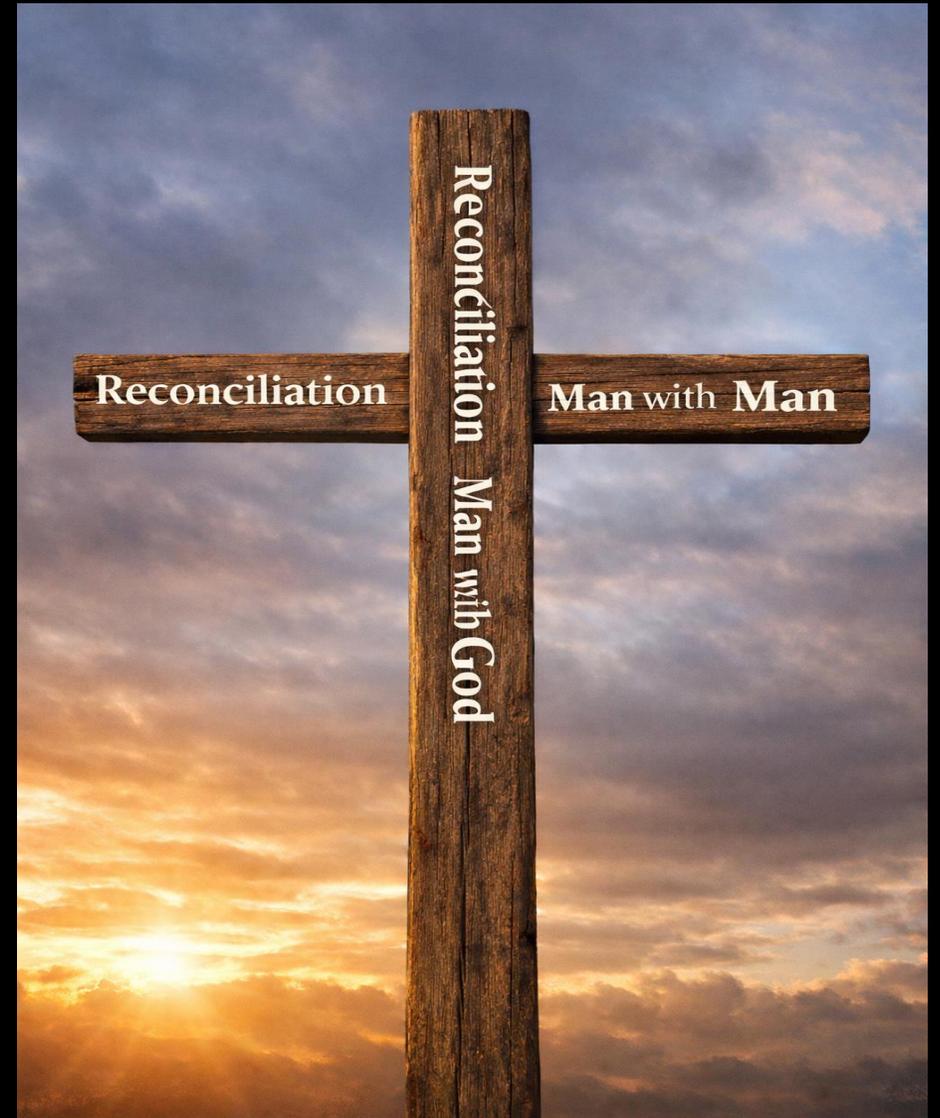
Reconciliation only happens through Christ's sacrificial death

2Co 5:18 “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ...”

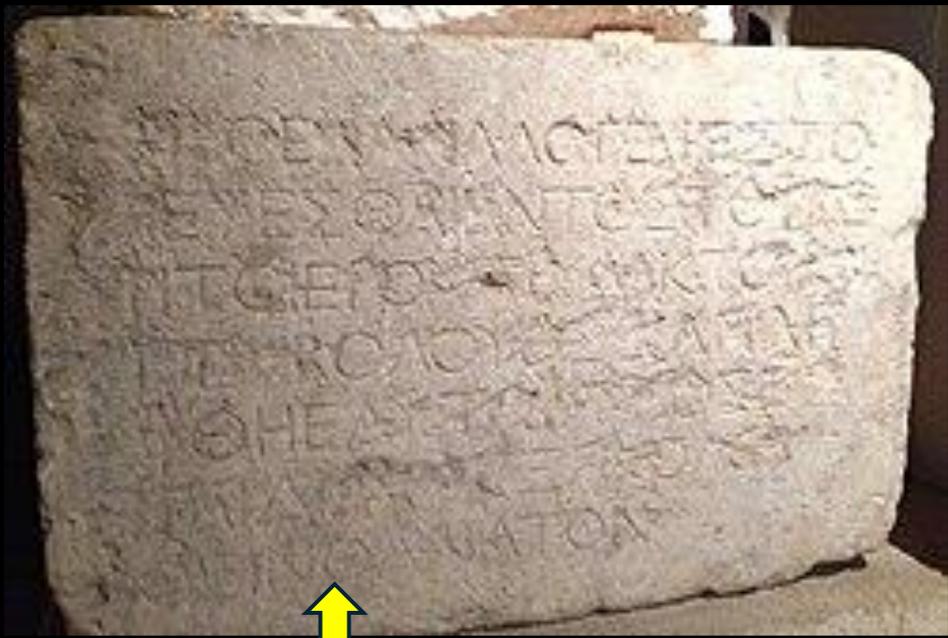
Eph 2:13

**He Himself is our peace...who has
made both one
(Jew & Gentile)**

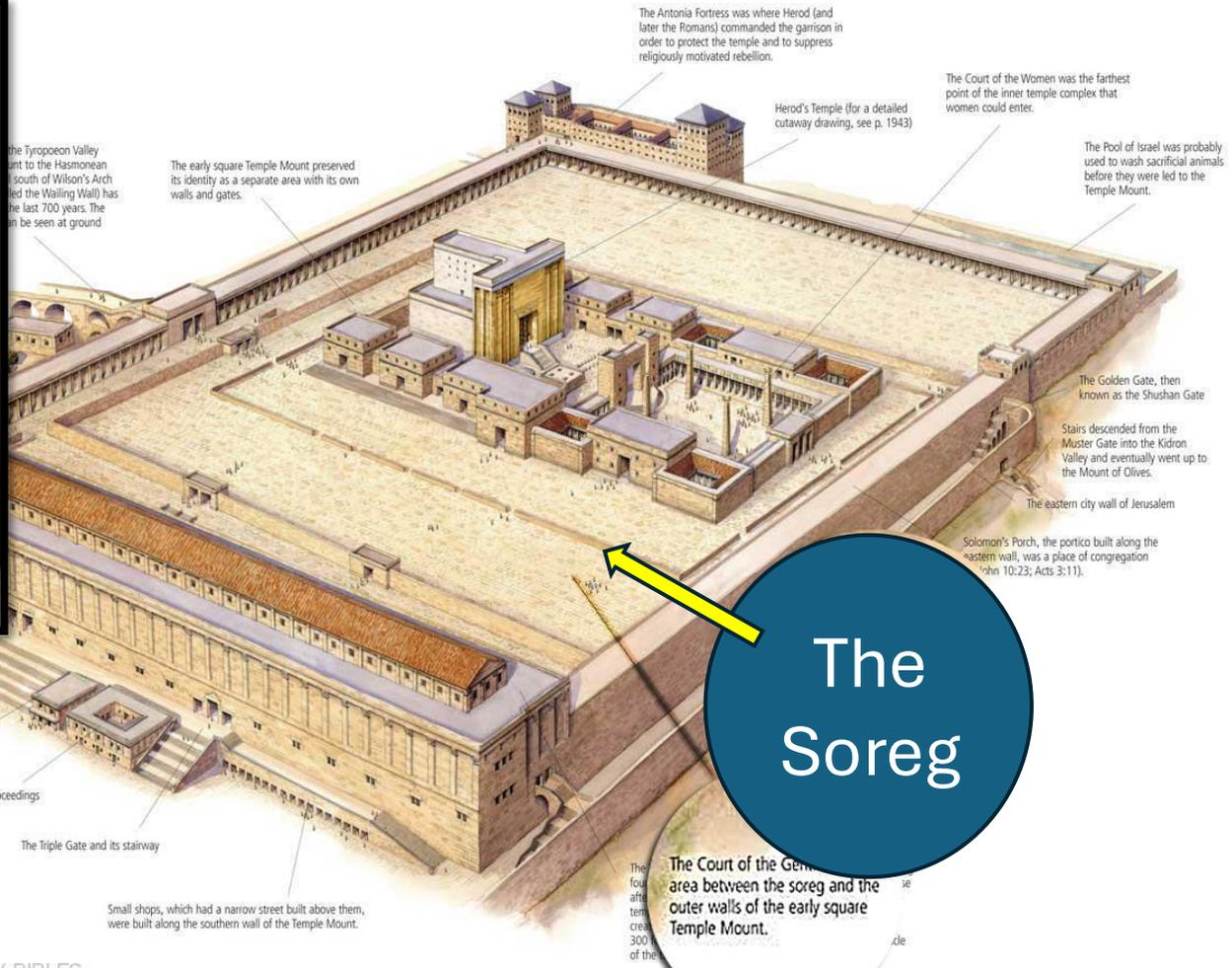
*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is
neither slave nor free, there is neither
male nor female; for you are all one in
Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:28)*



Eph 2:14



*“..cross this line
and you die...”*



**The
Soreg**

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Eph 2:14

If Jesus' Lordship over your life is not greater than your race, greater than your politics, greater than your preferences, then you don't fully understand His Lordship.

“All were far in sin's shadow; All are near by mercy's light.”

Racism cannot survive at the foot of the cross.

Eph 2:14

Vertical / Horizontal Peace

You cannot fix horizontal hostility without vertical healing.

“The cross is the instrument of reconciliation not only between God and man but between man and man.” (Bruce)

Eph 2:16

Far Off – the Gentiles

Near – the Jews

Jesus was preached through His incarnation, cross and resurrection and now through the apostles and gospel proclamation.

Eph 2:17-18

Access

“To be heralded before...”

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb 4:16)

Eph 2:17-18

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Eph 2:17-18

For Free!

V18 is a clear picture of the Trinity:
“...through the Son, by the Spirit, to the Father.”

Eph 2:17-18

God's kingdom has no second-class seating.



**The church must reflect
heaven's citizenship.**

Eph 2:19

Shift in Metaphors

Politics (citizenship) – Family (household) – Architecture (temple)

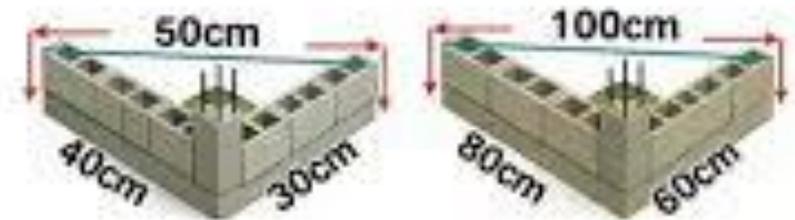
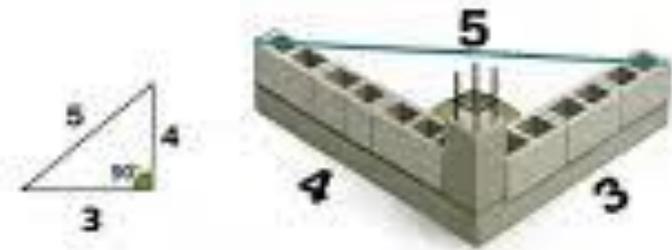
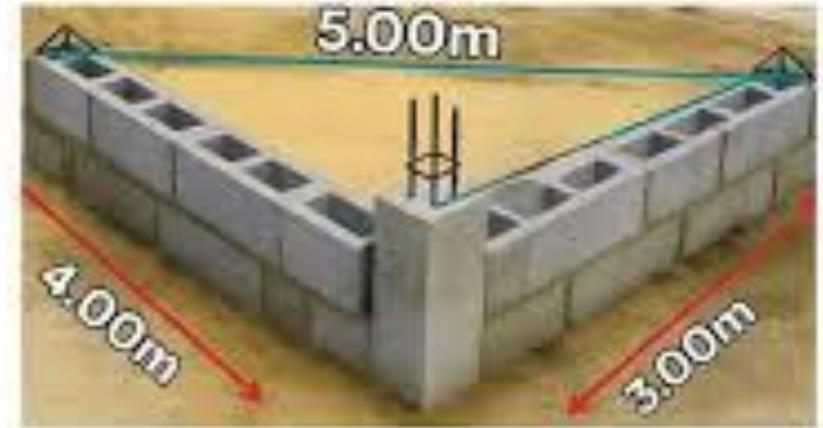
The foundation is apostolic truth: the once-for-all revelation of Christ and His saving work.

Eph 2:20-22

Shift in Metaphors

The cornerstone: first stone laid; sets alignment

Determines direction, stability and integrity.



Eph 2:20-22

Messianic Prophecy

Ps 118:22

Isa 28:16

Mat 21:42

1Pet 2:6

Jesus Determines:

The doctrine of the church

The identity of the church

The unity of the church

The stability of the church

The reason Jew and Gentile can be one is not because they erase their differences. It's because both align to the same cornerstone.

Eph 2:20-22

Saints grow into a holy temple in the Lord...

“...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1Pe 2:5

The church is a designed dwelling in which God resides.

God does not dwell in racial isolation.

He dwells in reconciled community.

Eph 2:20-22

Out of many — one body.

Out of hostility — harmony.

Out of strangers — saints.

Out of division — a dwelling place for God.

That's not social reform.

That's new creation. A new humanity.

reflections

Only one covenant has lasted.

Sealed in blood.

Established at the cross.

Still standing today.

Out of many — one body.

Out of hostility — harmony.

Out of strangers — saints.

Out of division — a dwelling place for God.

reflections



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