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Ephesians 1:2
Peace

We're still in Ephesians chapter 1 verse number 2, where Paul begins his letter with "grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ". We spent a couple weeks scratching the surface of the reality of grace. Now we're going to say some things about the reality of peace.

There is a little overlap going on here between our Ephesians study and our Colossians study at 9:00 AM, because we started both books at the same time and they both begin with the same sentence. So we mentioned some of this in our Colossians study last week. However, most of you were not there.

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." That is Paul's greeting in every epistle to every church. That is his desire. There is something of his heart that can be seen there. Paul, what are you hoping, wishing, desiring that each church would come to genuinely experience? Answer: the reality of grace and peace as they are in Christ.

So, regardless of whatever those words may have meant to you in the past. I'm just asking that we can all, myself included, look afresh at these concepts. Because they are far more than concepts. The sad truth is that they have not been much more than concepts to me for most of my life. Concepts I believed in. But they were not concepts to Paul. Grace and peace were both realities of life and experience to Paul. Realities he longed to see the church walk in. Realities that, in fact, defined life as he came to know it.

Grace, as we mentioned in brief, was a death that Paul was invited into. A death to sin, a death to self, a death to the old, the first, a death to death. A death that was finished in the work of the cross, and yet a death that worked in Him until he himself was conformed to it. And then a life. Not his life transformed. Not his life made better. But the life of Another, the life of the Resurrection, now working in him in every thing that is true worship, true service, true ministry, true love, etc. All things unto God are by grace and through faith. We won't review that any more.

But now peace. Peace isn't a feeling. Paul wasn't just wishing an emotion on the church of Ephesus. Paul wishing peace to the church of God wasn't like saying "I hope you have a pleasant day". I hope you are able to loosen up, unwind, stop and smell the roses, enjoy the sunshine, etc" No, that's not the peace he's speaking of.

The peace he's speaking of is not related to natural circumstances. This is a peace that transcends and defines you in all natural circumstances. Its not really an emotion. It's a reality of salvation that you have come to in Christ, a peace with God and with all who share Christ's life, that is far greater than a human emotion. Now, with that said, the reality of this peace that Paul wishes them to know can and will effect human emotion. There certainly are feelings of rest and freedom and joy that

come out from the reality of this peace. But he's not just yearning that they'd have a pleasant emotion.

You obviously have realized that there are plenty of things that have nothing to do with truth or spiritual reality that can give a human being the emotion of peace. There are, for instance, drugs that can make you feel peaceful. But there are not drugs that can show you true peace. There are breathing techniques, vacations, meditation practices, or various beverages that can make you feel peaceful. But none of those grants the soul the reality of peace.

No, peace is first of all a spiritual reality, and then, through the spiritual understanding of that reality (faith), it becomes a human experience. It is first a finished work of the cross, and then it works its way into emotion through the revealing of that finished work. The Father planned it. The Son accomplished it. And the Spirit reveals it, or you will never experience it.

So when Paul is wishing upon the church of Ephesus the peace of God, he's not just wishing that they have a "peaceful easy feeling". You must see the objective reality of peace as it is in Christ before you will ever have a peace that is not circumstantial. A peace that is not situational. And so Paul starts by wishing that they come to know the true peace that they have come to in Christ...and our emotion and our sense of reality is effected by that - and it is effected by that as we grow in faith.

You see, its always that way. We must come to have reality to define emotion, rather than having emotion define reality. For most of my life, and still in much of my life, it has been the other way around. That's the way humans work.

We have these two things that have no ability to know spiritual reality. We have this one that is called emotion. We have another that is called intellect. One or the other, or the combination of the two, attempt to tell us what is objectively, eternally, and spiritually real. However, neither your emotion, by itself, nor your intellect, by itself, or the two of them working in cahoots, HAS A CLUE what reality is. The only way that spiritual reality can be known by a natural man, is if that man is first born of that Spirit and then taught by that Spirit the realm and reality into which it has been born. Everything other than that is vanity and imagination.

We just had a baby girl. I sometimes just hold her and look at the silly, confused faces she makes as she looks around at this world. She has just been born into a world that she knows ABSOTUTELY NOTHING about. She has just come into a world where she doesn't know the first thing. I mean JACK SQUAT. And I watch her looking around. Everything is foreign. Nothing is familiar. Nothing is understood. You can see it in her face.

How does she learn the realm and reality into which she has been born? Only when those who are of that realm and reality explain and familiarize her with it. What if you left her alone in a room for 10 years? She would come out 10 years later a lot bigger, but still knowing absolutely nothing except what her mind was able to imagine in that room. Would her imaginations correspond to anything in natural reality? How in the would could they? She's seen nothing. She's experienced nothing. She's been taught nothing.

Well, what happens when a Christian is born again? Well, they immediately find themselves in a realm that they know ABSOLUTELY NOTHING about. The only

difference between a newly born Christian, and my newly born daughter, is that a Christian like me is generally dumb enough to drag my natural understanding over into the spirit and try to make it mean something. My daughter is at least smart enough to be aware that she knows nothing. Christians want to hand you a microphone and put you on a plane to be a missionary before you've even seen the cross. But if you have a salvation that you've never seen...what exactly are you planning on sharing when you get there?

What am I getting at? I guess I'm talking about emotion and reality. If my daughter, Willow, came out of a room after 10 years...she would still have emotions. And those emotions would feel real, and would be defined by whatever in the world her sense of reality is. Maybe she loves spiders but she's scared of sunshine. But if we were able to work with her, and help her know reality, then emotion might begin to line up with reality.

I'm a bit off my course, but I guess I'm saying two things. First, that we bring over into the realm of Life in Christ our natural intellect and emotion and seek to define reality, and it so often serves to get in the way. And second, that our view of spiritual reality in Christ (faith) can truly become the reality, stability, and substance of emotion and understanding.

And that brings us back to peace. Peace is not first an emotion. Peace is first a reality of salvation. Peace known by faith, can become a rest and a freedom that is more tangible than the natural world, but it is first of all an absolute reality of salvation. A reality of relatedness with God.

Ok...so if peace is not just an emotion, but a reality that can define emotion, what then is the reality? Well, the reality is that Christ Himself has become our reconciliation both with God and with one another. Peace isn't some THING that Christ gives to us. Peace is something that Himself is, and that He is made unto us.

We're going to look at Ephesians 2:13 – 18 to better understand this. I realize we're going to be getting into this eventually when we finally come to Ephesians chapter 2, but that will be so many years in the future, you'll have forgotten by then that we talked it about it today.

Eph 2:13-18 But now, in Christ Jesus you who then were afar off, came to be near by the blood of Christ. (14) For He Himself is our peace, Who has made both one, and broken down the middle wall of partition, (15) in His flesh causing to cease the enmity (hostility), the Law of the commandments in decrees, that He might **in Himself** create the two into **one new man**, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, slaying the enmity in Himself. (17) And coming, *He* proclaimed "peace to you, the ones afar off, and to the ones near." *Isa. 57:19* (18) For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Here is our peace beautifully defined. Here is how Christ has been made unto you peace. It works two ways. There is just one death, burial, and resurrection of Christ...but there are two realities of peace that come out of this resurrection. There is a peace with God by sharing Life, and there is a peace with man – also by sharing Life. In the words of Jesus

[Joh 17:21](#) I pray Father that they all may be one, as You *are* in Me, Father, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us,

You see, everything of the flesh collides with the cross and is destroyed. The Jew and the Gentile come together in His death...and the enmity is destroyed. The enmity with each other, and the enmity with God. Then, the Jew and Gentile are raised up in Him, one New Man, sharing His life, and are both reconciled in that life unto God and unto one another.

Let me break that down a bit. In the verses directly before what we just read, Paul has just referenced the so-called "Circumcision" camp and the "Uncircumcision". The Jew and the Gentile. Those who are of the seed of Abraham, and those who are not.

And the peace he now describes is a peace that both reconciles us to God, and reconciles us to one another by destroying the enmity. Well, what was the enmity that man had with God? The adamic man. The nature of sin working in the flesh. And that enmity was described, pointed out, manifested through the law – contained in commandments and decrees. How do you destroy the enmity? How do you destroy the hostility there? Death. You put Adam to death. You put the flesh to death in the body of Christ "slaying the enmity in Himself". You "break down the middle wall of partition **in His flesh**"

Well, what was the enmity Jew had with Gentile? Same thing. It is the flesh. And, in specific, it was an enmity that was required by the law. We're the right seed, you're the wrong seed. I won't get into that. But generally speaking, all enmity between men is because of the flesh. And all flesh is put away by the cross.

So He slays the enmity in Himself by means of death. By putting away the old man. By crucifying us with Christ. How did he put away the enmity? Did he pardon the enmity? No, he destroyed the body of enmity in Himself...and then was raised up as the life of a new body, One New Man, reconciled to God, sharing One Life. And what does that accomplish? That accomplishes **peace**. What is the nature of that peace? It is peace with God by sharing His life. Peace with one another by sharing the same life.

So, what is the reality of our peace with God? Well, he pardoned the enmity. No, He put you to death in the body of Christ, slaying the enmity. There's a big difference. He put Jew and Gentile to death through His blood, through His cross, and destroyed the hostility. Then He arises and offers Himself as the resurrection. Then He says to all of the dead, "if anyone wants to live, I am the resurrection and the life...and in me there is no more Jew, there is no more Gentile...I have destroyed the enmity. I have broken down the middle wall of partition. I have broken it down between man and man, and I have broken it down between man and God. I have established peace in Myself. If you live in me, live by me, then there is no Jew, Gentile, male or female...there's just one new man, one life, one body, one baptism into my death, one faith, one spirit".

You see, that that is what he goes on to say in Ephesians [2:18](#) "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." How could there be enmity, hostility, if there is just one Spirit shared by all that live? How could there be enmity if there is just one head with one body? Does your ear ever have enmity with your nose?

So the peace is the result of death and resurrection, not just forgiveness. Forgiveness exists because of death and resurrection. Peace has to do with the destruction of the enmity between man and man, and man and God, through destroying the middle wall of partition, and replacing it with a shared life...where it is now Christ all and in all. And so Hebrews will tell you that "Both He that sanctifies and those that are sanctified are all of one, thus He is not ashamed to call them brethren."

So Christ is made unto you peace with God. How? Because we were judged in His death and raised in His life. And Christ has been made unto us peace with one another in His body? How? Because we all agree on the five points of Calvinism. No, because we all meet in the same building once a week. No. Because we all play on a church softball team? Obviously not...but we act like those things are unity, oneness, peace. Christ is made unto us peace only because we are now individually partakers of one another, being partakers of Him.

That is Romans 12

Rom 12:4-5 For even as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, (5) so we the many are one body in Christ, and each one members of one another,

1Co 12:13 For also by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free, even all were made to drink into one Spirit.

So we are crucified with Christ and so judged in His death. The enmity is destroyed. And then we are made to drink of one Spirit. So peace is much more than just destroying the enmity. That is the beginning. Peace is being reconciled in His life.

The reason I say that is because often you'll often read in Christian literature about this word "peace" and you'll see that so much of what is talked about is the reality of justification. "God no longer has a case against us because He crucified Jesus. God's wrath is spent." Well, yes, but there is a lot more to reconciliation, even in the natural, than just the exercising of justice.

To use an analogy...lets just say that something horrible happened to somebody you loved. An evil man kidnapped and murdered somebody you love. Well, its horrible and your mortified and angry. So there's a manhunt and they catch the guy. They set a court date, try the man, he is found guilty, and given the death penalty. Well finally, after 7 years of appeals, and another 8 years on death row, the guy is executed. You've been waiting, and now justice has been fully executed. He has paid for his crime in the most severe way possible. You couldn't exact one more thing out of this guy. You've taken his life. And lets just say, for the sake of the analogy, that you also won a civil suit against his family and you now have his money too. His life has been taken. And you have all of his money. Question: are you now reconciled to this man? Do you feel like things are patched up? Everything resolved?

No. There is more to peace with God than slaying the enmity. There is more to peace with God than justice and judgment. If you're talking about justification, well then blood is all you want. Payment is what you want. But if you're talking about peace then there must be some sort of reconciliation. Those who are far off must

now be brought near. And that is why we who have been justified, are then said to be reconciled to God in **one body, ONE NEW MAN, drinking of one Spirit.**

The verse we read in Ephesians 2 doesn't just say that He destroyed the enmity, it then says that He "**in Himself** created the two into **one new man**". It doesn't just say that there was blood, it says that "He Himself is our peace, Who has made both one". It doesn't just say you were justified, it says "through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father".

So it disturbs me when I read or hear that peace with God is merely the wrath of God spent on Jesus Christ. Firstly because the wrath of God was spent on you (Jew and Gentile) in the body of Christ. There's quite a difference. And secondly because peace isn't just the death of the old, peace is sharing the resurrected life of the new. "He Himself is our peace". "You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God". That is peace.

Peace isn't something that you try to create with His body, it is something that He is as the life of His body. Think about it. Peace isn't something Jason's hand and ear are trying to construct or manufacture. Jason is the peace between his hand and his ear. Paul does not tell the body of Christ to form a committee to create unity in the church in bond of peace. No, he says

Eph 4:3 "Endeavoring to **preserve** the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"

The only way that my hand and my ear are going to fail to experience peace is if they don't recognize that they are each members of one life.

I did an analogy in the Colossians class last week that may bear repeating. One of my friends growing up had a father that needed a lung transplant. He ended up getting a lung that worked and he's actually doing really well now. But, if I remember correctly, the first lung that he got was rejected by his body. His body rejected the first one or two lung transplants.

And I was thinking about that the other day because of how we are in the body of Christ. I remember him being on all kinds of anti-rejection medication while he was awaiting another transplant because his body was saying "this thing is a foreign life form", "this thing might be a lung, but it is not part of my body, it does not share my life, get it out of me".

And that's how we are in the body of Christ. We don't understand the nature of our peace. We share one life. We have to take anti-rejection medication to keep us from having a church split because we don't understand that we have been made to drink of one life. Perhaps we understand the theology of it, but far too few have come to walk in the reality of it, and that is of course by faith.

The eye, the foot, the lung all share one life, but unless we comprehend Him as that life then we will reject every organ that doesn't line up with what we want to do, think, or feel. What is the nature of our peace? The nature of our peace isn't sharing similar ideas, doctrines, hobbies, or locations. The nature of our peace is established through **sharing** Christ as our life, and is experienced through **knowing** Christ as our life.

Col 3:3-4 For you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. (4)
Whenever Christ our life is revealed, then also you will be revealed with Him
in glory.

When my friend's father finally got a lung that worked, it worked because the rest of his body said "hey...this thing is part of my life. We are members of one another. There is peace."

So peace is first and foremost a facet of your salvation in Jesus Christ. It is first and foremost the reality of justification and reconciliation to God IN and BY the Person of His Son. "In Himself He created the two into one new man". That is the reality of peace. And this is what Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians wishing, praying they would come to know and experience. Because again...when faith makes it real, this peace becomes an experience, a realization, a freedom, an emotion.