



ANTICIPATE Peace

Week of November 30

announcements

Christmas Eve • Thursday, December 24 • 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 pm: Please encourage your folks to reserve their spot

No Sunday Services • December 28

Partner Class • January 25, 12:30-2:30pm: Where appropriate, challenge your group to make the commitment to the mission of North Rock Hill Church. At Partner Class they can learn about what it means to be an official NRHC Covenant Partner.

Ephesians 2:13-17

Paul describes the state of division between Jews and Gentiles as a “dividing wall of hostility” and a “barrier.” What was this wall in the context of the first-century church and the temple? In your own hearts today, what are the subtle or overt “dividing walls” that keep you from finding unity and reconciliation in Christ?

The passage emphasizes that “you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (v. 13) and that Christ made peace by “making the two groups into one new man” (v. 15). What does it mean that Jesus made “peace” both between humanity and God (vertical peace) and between different groups of people (horizontal peace)? Which of these two aspects of peace feels more challenging for you to grasp or live out?

Paul states that Christ “is our peace” (v. 14). He didn’t just give us peace; He is the peace. What does this mean for how we pursue peace in our daily lives? If Christ is the living reality of our peace, how should our reliance on Him change the way we approach conflict resolution, whether at home, at work, or within the church?

The peace was delivered to both those outside the covenant (Gentiles, “far off”) and those inside (Jews, “near”). Where do you see yourself in this verse—as one who was “far off” or as one who was “near”? How does your personal testimony confirm that the message of peace through Christ is for everyone?

PRAYER CHALLENGE

Have our group pair up with the same partner you assigned last time you met.

Share your answer to the following question with your partner. Then, take a few minutes to pray specifically for your partner, asking God to grant them the courage and self-denial to seek Christlike unity.

Think about a specific relationship or a group dynamic in your life right now where there is tension or a lack of unity. What baggage do you need to set aside to seek unity with that person? What is one practical step you can take this week to pursue reconciliation or unity with that person?

Commit to checking in with your prayer partner at least once this week (via text, call, or brief conversation) to encourage them and remind them to pursue Christlike unity.