

Reconciled to God

Ephesians 2:16
Message

Through His death on the cross, Jesus reconciled both Jew and Gentile to God. This took place in Jesus' body, the church.

Outline

Paul reflected on the change in their corporate status (2:11-22)

- By lack of spiritual privilege Gentiles were separate from Christ (2:11-12)
- **In Christ Gentile believers have been brought near to God with believing Jews (2:13-18)**

Jesus brought Gentile believers near to God (13)

Jesus created a new people of God (14-15)

Jesus reconciled both groups to God (16)

Jesus pronounced peace and gave both access to God (17-18)

Reconciled to God (Eph 2:16)

- I. Jesus broke down the dividing wall to reconcile Jews and Gentiles to God
- II. Jesus reconciled them together in the church
- III. Jesus accomplished reconciliation through His death on the cross

Reconciliation

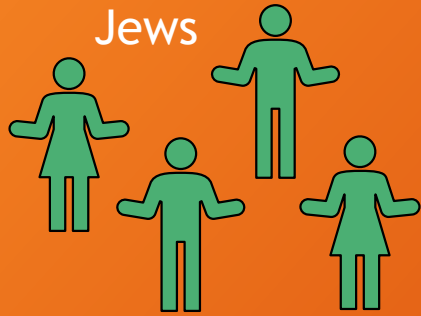
Basic form = “to exchange enmity for friendship” (Leon Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, p. 215)

Paul added a preposition to intensify it to describe a thorough exchange

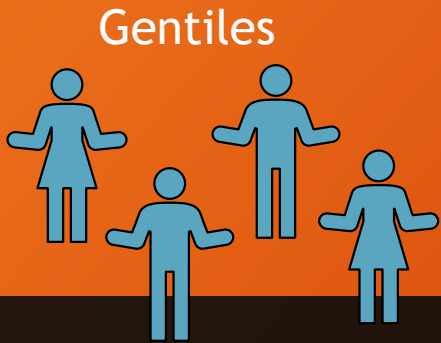
There is no remaining enmity between God and us. Our friendship is in fulness.

Hostility was thoroughly exchanged for a friendship of fulness

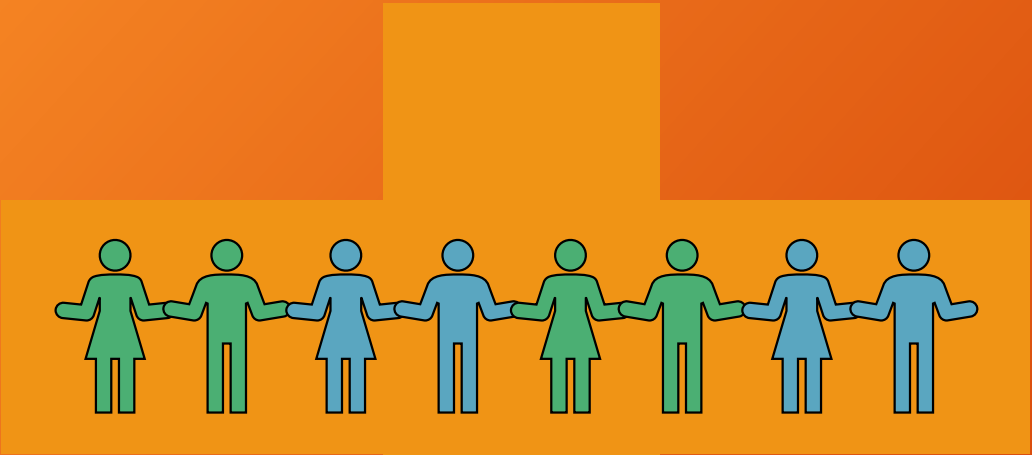
Chief passages: 2 Cor 5:18-21; Rom 5:1-11; Eph 2:11-18; Col 1:19-23



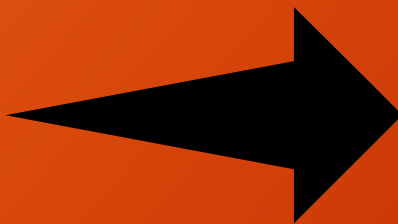
God's Wrath



Alienated From God



In
one
body



Reconciled To God In One Body

“Enmity”

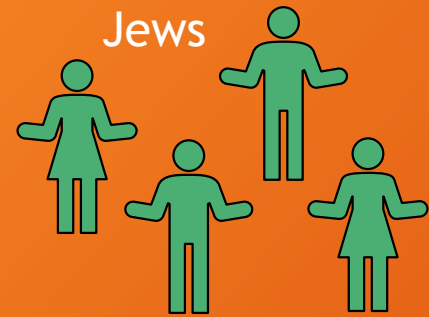


Expresses hostility or hatred toward someone

It is the opposite of peace

We were: haters of God, enemies, alienated, hostile (Rom 1:28-30; 5:10; Col 1:21; Jas 4:4)

God had righteous enmity toward us (His wrath, 2 Cor 5:10; Rom 5:9)



Jews

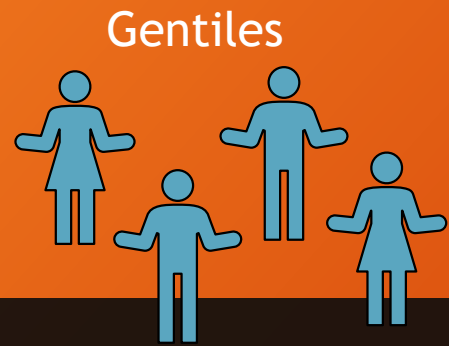
God's Wrath



Our sin

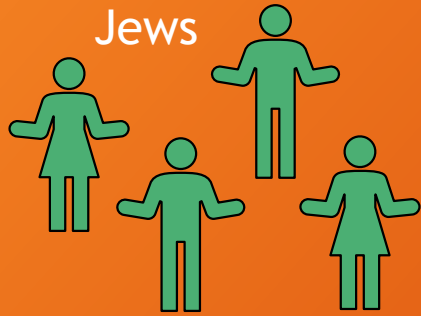


God



Gentiles

Alienated From God



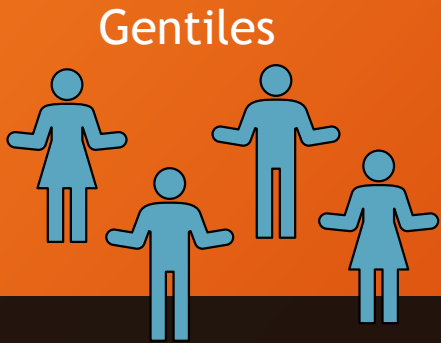
Jews

God's Wrath



Our
sin

God



Gentiles

Reconciled Through The Cross

“Reconciliation exacted a heavy price, the death of God’s Son”
(Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*, p. 383)

“The cross which slew Jesus slew this hostility”
(John Eadie, *Ephesians*, p. 184)

A “Double Movement” by Christ

“Not only does God turn in Christ to the world in order to effect reconciliation...but Christ also stands in the place of men to offer himself up to God, to expiate...the sin of his people”

(Herman Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline Of His Theology*, p. 190)

Reconciliation - Definition

Reconciliation is the act of God whereby He removed the enmity that separated hostile sinners from Himself and restored them to Himself in a permanent, intimate relationship, having accomplished this reconciliation through the work of Christ on the cross.

Justification and Reconciliation Compared

Justification

- Rom 5:1 Reconciliation is a result of justification
- Forensic concept
- Courtroom language
- We are declared “not guilty” by the heavenly Judge

Reconciliation

- Perspective of a social relationship
- Restoration of a right relationship
- “speaks in general of the restoration of the right relationship between two parties” (*Paul: An Outline Of His Theology*, p. 182)

So now we are now in a right standing before God and our enmity has been exchanged for friendship.