

God and You: The Fellowship of Friends

Ephesians 2:17-18
Message

**Jesus announced
peace for all who
believe, peace
which enjoys
fellowship in a bond
of friendship with
God.**

Outline

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

The Fellowship of Friends (Eph 2:17-18)

- I. Jesus came and accomplished peace (17a)
- II. Jesus preached peace to both Jews and Gentiles (17b)
- III. Jesus secured our joint access to His Father (18)

When did Jesus preach this peace?

After His resurrection, Jesus came to His disciples and He said to them, “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19-21)

The apostles preached this peace to both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 10:35-36)

“it is truly a wonderful fact that whenever we proclaim peace, it is Christ who proclaims it through us”

(John Stott, *Ephesians*, p. 103)

“Peace with God”



Shalom, total well-being

Lack of hostility between formerly hostile groups

Mutual acceptance of one another

A genuine friendship expressed in a loving bond

Thorough exchange of enmity for friendship

Our new relationship is the fulness of friendship

An abiding state of peace

Sweet fellowship as friends

Chief elements of peace with God

Peace is the nature our new relationship with God (Rom 5:1)

“the inner peace of the heart that pervades the whole man in all his doings”
(Rom 15:13)

This peace, “surpassing all understanding, keeps and restrains the hearts and minds of believers” (Phil 4:7)

This peace, “as arbiter gives judgment in their hearts when they find themselves in uncertainty or inner discord” (Col 3:15; 2 Thess 3:16)

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

Our confident access to God

“The Divine Being is not clothed in thunder—no barrier stands between Him and us, for all legal obstacles are removed; so that the soul which feels peace with God can come into His sacred presence without shrinking or tremor. It approaches by Christ...”

(John Eadie, *Ephesians*, p. 187)

Access together in one Spirit

The Holy Spirit “empowers the union of Jews and Gentiles in their access to God” (Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*, p. 389)

It is “the Spirit who regenerates, seals and indwells his people, who witnesses with our spirits that we are God’s children, who helps us in our weaknesses and teaches us to pray, and who unites us as we pray” (John Stott, *Ephesians*, pp. 103-104)