

The Prince of Peace

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 2:13-18.
- B. "The Prince of Peace" is a title exclusive to Jesus.
- C. Men do not understand what brings conflict so they cannot understand what brings peace. (Romans 3)

II. Jesus is our peace.

- A. True peace is not merely the cessation of conflict--it is oneness and harmony.
- B. The peace that governments bring is only temporal.
- C. Jesus' peace will be satisfying, permanent, and genuine.
- D. In order to live at peace one must have peace.

III. Jesus is making peace.

- A. He has broken down the dividing wall of hostility--hostility has to end.
 - 1. Jesus ended the hostility of the Jews and Gentiles marked off by a Temple inscription.
 - 2. Jesus Christ knows how to remove walls of bitterness between people.
 - 3. The law makes the hostility, so if one removes the law the hostility is removed. A self-righteous view creates hostility between people. (John 8)
 - 4. Both the Jew and the Gentile need to be forgiven. (Romans 2-4)
 - 5. Hostility is removed when self-righteousness is removed.
- B. He creates one man in place of the two.
 - 1. Only God creates out of nothing.
 - 2. The new man is the church--no culture has to become another or reject their own. A new culture is to be created.
- C. He reconciles to God ending hostility.
 - 1. Ultimate peace must be before God otherwise self-righteousness will come in again.
 - 2. When one recognizes that everyone needs forgiven by God, hostility can end.

IV. Jesus preaches peace.

A. This is the means of possessing peace.

B. The first step is believing the message God has given.

1. In Paul's preaching, there was the preaching of peace.

2. When one believes that the ground of self-righteousness has been removed the new relationship can be possible.

C. The second step is communication with God.

1. There is nothing higher than living in relationship with God.

2. Life begins to be what it was intended when one is in this relationship. (John 17:3)

Application questions:

1. Why must self-righteousness be removed in order for peace to be established between peoples?

2. Must people forsake their cultures when they enter into the Christian faith? Explain.

3. Why is belief in peace an essential first step before one can have a relationship with God?
