

# The Church "Harmony"

## Ephesians 2:14-18

Smith and Jones were "on the outs" over a very trivial matter. This deeply concerned Deacon Brown, so he prayed that he might be a peacemaker. He called on Smith and asked, "What do you think of Jones?" "He's the meanest crank in the neighborhood!" "But," said Brown, "you have to admit that he's very kind to his family." "Oh, sure, he's kind to his family all right; no one can deny that." The next day Brown went to Jones and inquired, "Do you know what Smith said about you?" "No, but I can imagine how that scamp would lie about me!" "This may surprise you, but he said you're very kind to your family." "What! Did Smith say that?" "Yes, he did." "Well, if you hadn't told me, I wouldn't believe it." "What do you think of Smith?" asked Deacon Brown. "Truthfully, I believe he's a lowdown scalawag." "But you have to admit that he's very honest in business." "Yes, there's no getting around that; in business he's a man you can trust." The next day Brother Brown called on Smith again. "You know what Jones said about you? He claims you're a fellow that really can be trusted in business, and that you're scrupulously honest." "You mean it?" "Yes, I do," said Brown. "Well of all things," replied Smith with a happy smile. The next Sunday the former "enemies" nodded to each other. Brown continued his "meddling" until the next annual business meeting of the church when Smith and Jones shook hands and finally voted on the same side!

Take a diplomatic page from the peacemaking notebook of this consecrated deacon and begin to practice his helpful

methods, for God loves "a holy meddler!"

This illustration shares with us a point – that we ought to be at peace with others in the church. The way to do that is to understand that we are no better than anyone else, and to realize we can benefit from one another.

In this passage we find a little about what it means for the church to be in "harmony." We are not talking about musical harmony, but spiritual harmony. The church needs to learn what harmony is and then practice it.

The word "peace" is used 3 times in these verses before us. Each time they represent a different truth about what it means for the body of Christ, the church, to be at peace with one another – to be in harmony. Not just in the church family itself, but to be at peace, or in harmony, with other churches of "like precious faith."

What we will consider in this message is what it means for the Church to be in harmony, or at peace, not only with God (their salvation covers this) but also with other believers in the church.

## **I. SUPPLIER OF PEACE – VS. 14**

### ***A. The Supply comes from Jesus Christ – "He is."***

Isaiah 9:6

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Luke 1:29

<sup>29</sup> And when she saw him, she was troubled at

his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

Romans 5:1

<sup>1</sup> Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

***B. The Supply comes to destroy strife and contention from within the church – "and hath broken down the middle wall of partition."***

1. The first part of verse 15 goes with this part of verse 14 as well. There it uses the word "abolish" – this word means to be rendered entirely idle.
2. It would indicate that, although Jesus came to be the supplier of peace, and that peace is there for us, we can make it of none affect by our fighting with other believers. Jesus came to destroy that and give us peace, but we can override that peace and fight in spite of it.
3. The Supply comes to provide "harmony" among believers that normally would not be inclined to get along with each other – "between us."

**II. SOURCE OF PEACE – VS. 15-16**

The word "made," or "make," in some form, is used six times in Ephesians two. Four of those times it is referring to God "making" something. Two of those use a word for "made" or "making" which means "to be the author of." Simply put, He, Jesus, is the Author, the Source, of our peace, our harmony, in the church.

**A. *The Source of our peace is the same as the supplier of our peace, and that is Jesus Christ – vs. 15 – "in himself."***

A reporter asked the late President Herbert Hoover, "Mr. President, how do you handle criticism? Do you ever get agitated or tense?"

"No," President Hoover said, seemingly surprised at the question, "of course not."

"But," the reporter went on, "when I was a boy you were one of the most popular men in the world. Then, for a while you became one of the most unpopular, with nearly everyone against you. Didn't any of this meanness and criticism ever get under your skin?"

"No, I knew when I went into politics what I might expect, so when it came I wasn't disappointed or upset," he said. He lowered his familiar bushy eyebrows and looked directly into the reporter's eyes. "Besides, I have 'peace at the center,' you know," he added.

Inner peace comes from looking to God, our source. Peace is the gift of Jesus Christ. Jesus, before leaving His disciples, said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: - John 14:27.

**B. *The peace, or harmony, that comes from the Source comes to make all (here the word "twain", referring to the Jew and the Gentile), the same "new man."***

1. The Jew is not different from the Gentile when he gets saved, they are both alike.

2. We are no different than any other person on the inside, even if we look different, or talk different. In the Spirit, we are all "new people" in Christ.

John 10:16

**16** And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

John 11:52

**52** And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

***C. The peace comes by way of the cross, and our faith in it, to restore the harmony to the state which God intended for it to be when He created the world.***

Colossians 1:20

**20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

1. The word for "reconcile" in verse 16 means "to reconcile back again, bring back a former state of harmony."
2. That "former state of harmony" is referring to what it was like in the garden of Eden before the fall.
3. What God wants of His church ("body" in verse 16) is for them to be in harmony, at peace, with one another just like Adam and Eve were with God in the garden.

4. This is further emphasized by the use of the word "enmity" – Jesus "slew" the enmity, the enemy, the Devil, on the cross when He cried, "It Is Finished." (The word "enmity" is literally referring to the Law as being the barrier between the Jew and the Gentile, but the repeat of it in verse 16 carries the idea of not only that particular division but to all the enmity that the Enemy throws our way to cause division.)

Genesis 3:13–14

<sup>13</sup> And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

<sup>14</sup> And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

### III. SERMON OF PEACE – VS. 17-18

***A. The Sermon was, again, the same as the Supplier and the Source, Jesus Christ – "and came."***

Isaiah 57:19–20

<sup>19</sup> I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

***B. The Sermon was to the lost – no matter who they were – "to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."***

Luke 19:10

<sup>10</sup> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

***C. The means in which the result of the Sermon (God's peace) was reached was by the Holy Spirit – vs. 18.***

1. Unless the Holy Spirit is the means by which our peace and harmony comes it is a false one.
2. The Holy Spirit is given to us in order that we might be able to overcome our differences and look at each other in the church as equal to ourselves – just sinners saved by grace.

Galatians 5:22–23

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

<sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Conclusion: When God established the church as a type of a body where all the "members [are] fitly joined together" He intended for it to be just that – a "fitly joined" body. What has happened is the devil has worked in the church and caused some to look on others as being inferior, and therefore destroying the unity, the harmony, the peace.

What we need to do is get back to the way God intended it to be – get back to the way He created man – in harmony with Himself, therefore in harmony with others.

We will have differences for we are all different but

when those differences grow into disharmony then we have gone against God's Word and have gotten out of God's will. We need to get back to the will of God – **WE NEED REVIVAL.**