

# One Plus One Equals One

Ephesians 2:14-18 Sunday AM, July 2, 2023

**Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-18** (NASB95) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. <sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is performed in the flesh by human hands*—<sup>12</sup> *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one* and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, <sup>15</sup> by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances*, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus establishing peace*, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; <sup>18</sup> for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Praise God for these believers in Ephesus! After listing the blessings given them in Christ, Paul prays for them that God would give them a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened to know the “hope of His calling” and the “riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” This definitely was something to which they were called, because they were rescued/made alive from the dead living which was **according to the course of this world**, living according to the **lusts of [their] flesh**, by **indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind**. They and all we who come after who live this way focus on protecting ourselves and our personal happiness instead of looking to and living in dependence on God, the only source of life and truth. <sup>4</sup> **But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,** <sup>5</sup> **even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),** <sup>6</sup> **and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.** Why? <sup>7</sup> **so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** God gives to make salvation possible AND to cause to trust His words and live inside them, <sup>8</sup> **For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; no as a result of works, so that no one may boast.** We are His workmanship—His poem, sculpture, created for good works--existing through life in Christ to carry out the works **God prepared beforehand** for us to do. This position is not deserved and evidence of true faith originating from God shows both in gratitude to God and a life of obedience. Right at the heart of the thoughts of the truly saved is Christ. **But now, in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace . . . .** Saved people think much of Christ. He is part of all conversations about life, love, and goodness. Look to the Lamb of God.

## \*Hymn #216 (Red): Look to the Lamb of God

Looking to the Lamb of God is NOT merely an individual pursuit. Those called by God are drawn from across every line we draw dividing ourselves from each other. All identities and values must yield to the new identity of life in Christ. This unites all true believers. <sup>14</sup> **For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,** <sup>15</sup> **by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,** <sup>16</sup> **and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.** How does this work? Look to the Lamb of God. Watch. Learn. It will expand your community by breaking down some of your fears and giving you a heart to invest more in those who profess faith in Christ. If you don't know more of what goes on in the souls of those here, it's your fault. He saved you to invest in soul care in a way that ties His people together under Christ's headship.

## \*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Basin and the Towel

## \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn

**Scripture: Galatians 3:1–29** (NASB95) You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? <sup>2</sup> This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup> So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? <sup>6</sup> Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.” <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. <sup>10</sup> For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.” <sup>11</sup> Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, “THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.” <sup>12</sup> However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, “HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM.” <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”—<sup>14</sup> in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. <sup>15</sup> Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is *only* a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. <sup>16</sup> Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ. <sup>17</sup> What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. <sup>19</sup> Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. <sup>20</sup> Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is *only* one. <sup>21</sup> Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. <sup>23</sup> But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. <sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

## Offering: \*Doxology:

Lack of faith in Christ, not treasuring Christ seen by worship and daily submission to His headship is the ONLY thing which would keep either Jew or Gentile apart from God. Your security as a Jew OR Gentile with God comes from releasing all other identities besides Christ. This means your personality, your heritage, your life experiences, your accomplishments and failures, all of these must yield to your present gaze at Christ. **Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”—** <sup>14</sup> **in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.** How does this live? You talk of Christ, you talk to God because of Christ, and you actively meditate on His words seeking to follow Him. This, not your disgust with others “not getting it” anchors our talk with each other, drawing us together—yes, you and me, you and her/him. <sup>18</sup> **for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.**

## \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Christ is All

## Message: “One Plus One Equals One” Ephesians 2:14-18

## \*Hymn #197: Lamb of Glory

## The Lord's Table

## \*Hymn (Powerpoint): We Are Called to Be God's People

## \*Prayer