

Building Bridges to Peace

December 28, 2025 | Ephesians 2:13-22

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEACE

EPHESIANS 2:13-22

Observation: What is happening here?

Ephesians 2:13-22

- Those who were **far off** have been **brought near** by the blood of Christ. (v.13)
- Christ is **our peace**, who made both groups **one** and broke down the **dividing wall**. (v.14)
- Christ created **one new humanity** in Himself, making peace and reconciling both to God in **one body** through the cross. (vv.15-16)
- Through Him we have **access** in one Spirit to the Father. (v.18)
- We are no longer **strangers** and aliens, but *fellow citizens* and *members of God's household*. (v.19)
- We are built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, with **Christ Jesus as the cornerstone**, being built together into a **dwelling place for God** by the Spirit. (vv.20-22)

**“THUS FAR
THE LORD
HAS HELPED US”**

1 SAMUEL 7:12

Ontario Community Church: Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.

John 6:47 (ESV) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.”

Interpretation: What can we learn?

Peace begins with Christ, not with us.

- Christ does not merely teach peace; **He Himself is our peace.** Reconciliation flows from what was done, not what we do.
- Dividing walls are **torn down in Christ**, restoring our relationship with God and with others. God provides a way for us to be reunited.
- **Scriptures:** *Ephesians 2:14–18; Isaiah 9:6; Romans 5:1; John 14:27*

Peace forms us; individually and collectively.

- God is not only saving individuals; He is **forming a people**. We are no longer strangers, but **members of God's household**. Consider how families, churches and communities can be transformed by Christ.
- Christ is the **cornerstone** holding us together. The church is meant to be a **place to encounter God's presence**.
- **Scriptures:** *Ephesians 2:19–22; 1 Peter 2:4–5; Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 133:1*

Peace shapes us as witnesses and peacemakers.

- Those reconciled to God are entrusted with the **ministry of reconciliation**; This is a call for us to have active faith.
- Peace then is not passive; it **moves outward** toward others.
- Christ calls His people to be **peacemakers, not peacekeepers**.
- Bridge-building becomes a witness to the world of the gospel.
- **Scriptures:** *2 Corinthians 5:17–20; Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; Colossians 4:3*

Application: How should we live?

Stand on the Bridge; Remember God's help

- Think of one way God brought you near this year and **thank God intentionally** for His faithfulness.
- Share one story of **God's work** with someone as you enter the new year
- **Scriptures:** *1 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 103:2*

Cross the bridge trusting in God.

- Identify one relationship marked by **distance or tension** and take one step toward peace: forgiveness, conversation, prayer, or invitation.
- **Trust Christ** to do what only He can do.
- **Scriptures:** *Ephesians 2:14–16; Matthew 5:23–24; Romans 12:18*

Be a Peacemaker with Christ beside you.

- Choose one clear way to **participate in God's call for your life** this year: Prayer and discipleship, Hospitality and welcome, Community partnership, or witness and outreach.
- **Faithfulness begins** with one intentional step.
- **Scriptures:** *Matthew 28:18–20; Hebrews 10:24–25*

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