

# *Peace ... in a Climate of Conflict*

<sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated 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 once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For **he himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup>And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- Ephesians 2:11-22 (ESV)

## **3 Crucial Questions:**

Is Jesus \_\_\_\_\_?

*“... you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is **our** peace ...”*

Do I live \_\_\_\_\_?

*“... who has **made us both one** and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself **one new man in place of the two**, so making peace ...”*

Am I \_\_\_\_\_?

*“In him you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God** by the Spirit.”*

## Peace with **God**

Honest recognition of the \_\_\_\_\_

Humble receiving His \_\_\_\_\_

## Peace with **Others**

With other believers: Acknowledging our \_\_\_\_\_

With non-believers: Accepting my \_\_\_\_\_

## Peace with **Myself**

Stop \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit in me

Start \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit's direction of me

“God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p. 50