



SERIES: Ephesians
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Monday, January 18, 2021
Scripture: Ephesians 2:14-16
TITLE: Can't We All Just Get Along?

“Can’t we all just get along?” That was the question Rodney King asked in 1992. This happened in response to six-day long rioting in Los Angeles. I think many of us feel that same way as we embark on a new year. 2020 was a year of division. It was division over elections, masks, racial tensions, and the list just goes on. Can’t we all just get along?

The Apostle Paul answers that question for us in Ephesians 2, beginning in verse 14.

For Christ, himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. (Eph. 2:14-16, NLT)

Paul uses the term “peace” twice in this passage, but then he chooses another word to describe this peace: “reconciliation”. This is what people are crying for today: reconciliation—agreement and peace between people. Paul recognizes there is real division. There was a real division between the Jews and the rest of the world. There was a division between religion and relationship with God.

But notice what Paul says: that division – that hostility - doesn’t have to continue, because Christ broke down the walls that separated us. Division over the red carpet or blue carpet in the sanctuary can end. Division over the real Whopper or the Impossible Whopper can end. Division over our skin color can end. Division over our economic status can end. Division over political policy can end. Division over our religious background can end. Why? Because Christ came, He died, and He rose again. Because God offers us peace and reconciliation through Jesus Christ, we become one body. We become united on the same team.

Can’t we all just get along? Yes, we can, but only when we’re together in the body of Christ. Until that happens, no amount of legislation fixes the heart and restores the soul. No amount of blogs and magazine articles can correct the source of our deepest problems that divide us. If you’re feeling exhausted from the division and hatred, there’s only one solution: Jesus Christ.

Remember, there is one Gospel that saves. So this is my challenge for you today: preach the Gospel to yourself, and then share it with someone who is far from God. We need the Gospel just

like everyone else. We need it for our daily transformation. We need to remember that we are saved by grace alone. There is no boasting about an undeserved gift. So, preach it to yourself, and then share it with someone else who needs it. The world longs for peace and reconciliation. Let's give it to them.