Peace Among Us PASTOR ZAC HESS

The Peace of Christmas

Peace is Possible: Christ died so that we can live at peace with others. (Ephesians 2:11–22)

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—

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.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For He Himself is our peace, 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,

and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone,

in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Peace is Costly: We must strive for peace with one another. (Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 4:1–6; Colossians 3:12–14)

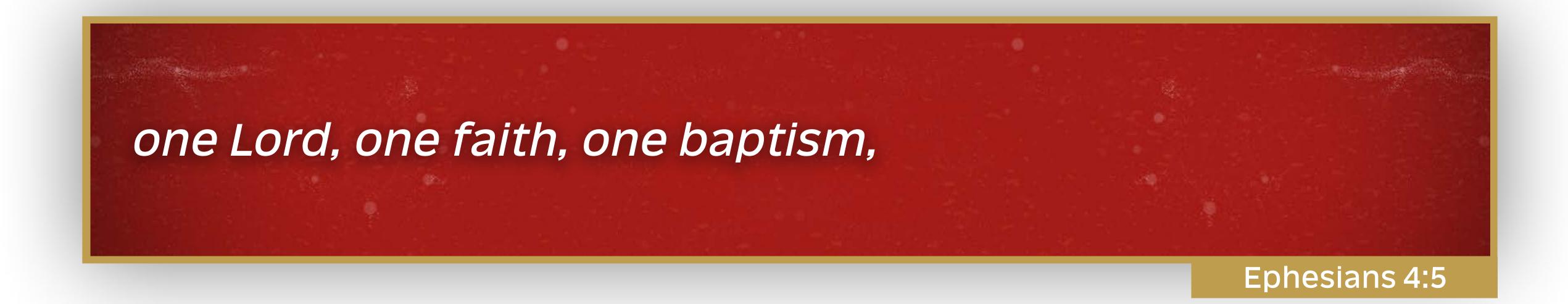
Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,



There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—



one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:6

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:14

Peace is Beautiful: Our peace is a witness to the world. (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Colossians 3:15–17)

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.