



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Global Mission!

Scripture: John 10:16; Ephesians 2:14-18

Jesus said: *“Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd”* (John 10:16). The “other sheep” were non-Jews, Jesus came to save Gentiles as well as Jews. This is an insight into his worldwide mission—to die for the sins of the whole world. People tend to want to restrict God’s blessings to their own group, but Jesus refuses to be limited by the fences we build.

Before Christ’s coming, Gentiles and Jews kept apart from each other. Jews considered Gentiles beyond God’s saving power and therefore without hope. Gentiles resented Jewish claims. **Christ revealed breaks down the wall of prejudice, reconciles all believers to God, and unifies us in one body.** Jews and Gentiles alike could be guilty of spiritual pride—Jews for thinking their faith and traditions elevated them above everyone else. Gentiles for trusting in their achievements, power, or position. Spiritual pride blinds us to our own faults and magnifies the faults of others. Be careful not to become proud of your salvation. Instead, humbly thank God for what He has done, and encourage others who might be struggling in their faith.

Christ has broken down the walls people build between themselves. Since these walls have been removed, we can come to real unity with people who are not like us. This is true reconciliation. Because of Christ’s death, we are all one family; our anger against each other has disappeared; we can all approach God through the Holy Spirit; we are no longer strangers to God; and we are all part of a beautiful temple with Christ as our cornerstone (Ephesians 2:14-21).

It’s our natural inclination to feel uncomfortable around those who are different from us and to gravitate toward those who resemble us. But when we allow our differences to separate us from our fellow believers, we are disregarding clear biblical teaching. Make a point of seeking out and appreciating people who are not just like you and your friends. You may find that you both have a lot in common. There are many barriers that can divide us from other Christians: age, appearance, intelligence, political persuasion, economic status, race, theological perspective. One of the best ways to stifle Christ’s love is to be friendly with only those people we like. Fortunately, Christ has knocked down the barriers and unified all believers in one family. The Holy Spirit helps us look beyond the barriers to the unity we are called to enjoy.

Christ’s death provided a way for all people to come to God *“to be reconciled”* (Colossians 1:20). It removed the sin that keeps us from having a right relationship with our Creator. This does not mean that everyone has been saved, but that the way has been cleared for anyone who will trust Christ to be saved. We can have peace with God and be reconciled to Him by accepting Christ. No one is good enough to save himself. If we want to live eternally with Christ, we must depend totally on God’s grace. This is true whether we have been murderers or honest, hardworking citizens. We have all sinned repeatedly, and any sin is enough to cause us to come to Jesus Christ for salvation and eternal life. Apart from Christ, there is no way for our sin to be removed. The way to be blameless is to trust Jesus Christ to take our sin away.

By His death, Christ ended the angry resentment between Jews and Gentiles, caused by the Jewish laws which favored the Jews and excluded the Gentiles. Christ died to abolish that whole system of Jewish laws. Then He took the two groups that had been opposed to each other and made them parts of Himself. Thus, He fused all believers together to become one in Himself.

The Jews were “nigh” to God because they already knew of Him through the Scriptures and worshiped Him in their religious ceremonies. The Gentiles were “afar off” because they knew little or nothing about God. Because neither group could be saved by good works or sincerity, both needed to hear about the salvation available through Jesus Christ. Both Jews and Gentiles are now free to come to God through Christ.

A church building is sometimes called God’s house. In reality, God’s house is not a building, but a group of people. He lives in us and shows himself to a watching world through us. People can see that God is love and that Jesus is Lord as we live in harmony with each other and with what God says in His Word.

People of God, Remember Your Work in the Lord is a Global Mission!