

**New Community  
“New Year New You”  
January 16, 2022**

**When you became a Christian, you received the gift of forgiveness, and you received the gift of Christian community.**

In read Ephesians 2, pay attention to how many times the word “peace” is used and the word “one” is used (7 times):

**Ephesians 2:14-18 (NIV) For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,<sup>15</sup> by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.<sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.<sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

Paul is speaking about peace. And he says that because of what Jesus did on the cross, we now have peace with God (vertical) and peace with one another (horizontal).

Jesus said of His disciples, “By this all men will know that you are disciples, if we love one another.” **Unity** always gets the attention of the world.

**Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV) Consequently (That is, “Because we are one, this is what it means for you.”), you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of His household,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.<sup>21</sup> In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.**

- **New Kingdom: We serve the same King together.**

The Christian faith is different from every other religion, because every other religion requires that you be willing to submit yourself to some external things. That could be a change in your diet. It could be a change in the clothes you wear. You must submit yourself to some externals.

In the Christian faith, what unites us is that we all bow to the same King— King Jesus. The Christian faith is not submission to some external things; it is internal submission to King Jesus, who has rescued us.

**C. S. Lewis: "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this."**

**John 18:36 (NIV) Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now My kingdom is from another place."**

- **New family: We belong to one another.**
- **New temple: We seek God together.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV) Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?**

This verse says that when you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit moved into your life. And the Holy Spirit lives in you at all times. This is both convicting and comforting.

**Psalm 27:4 (NIV) One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.**