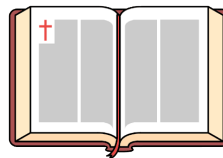


2 Corinthians

13:11-14

The Gospel message is a call to
**a Community
of Grace and Peace**

Paul begins and ends his letters with **grace & peace**.



Chapter 1

"² **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all **comfort**;"

Chapter 13

"¹¹ Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, **be comforted**, be like-minded, live in **peace**; and the God of love and **peace** shall be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you. ¹⁴ The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of the God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

Christian community is the showcase for grace & peace.

2 Corinthians 13

"¹¹ Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete (**restore yourselves**), be comforted (**admonish yourselves**), be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you."

Community building is the basic mission of the church.

Peace making is the basic responsibility of the believer.

Loving relationships are the basic witness to the Faith.



Two issues near the heart of God

SHALOM
(grace & peace)

KOINONIA
(community)

John 14:27

"**Peace** I leave with you; My **peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you, Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

1 John 1:3

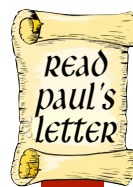
"what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have **fellowship** with us; and indeed our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

The core of God's glory is a **loving community**.

John 17

"²⁰ I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me. ²² And **the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them**; that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me."

A liturgical pattern in the early church was a celebration of a community of grace and peace.



"the peace"
(a holy kiss)

"¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

"the blessing"

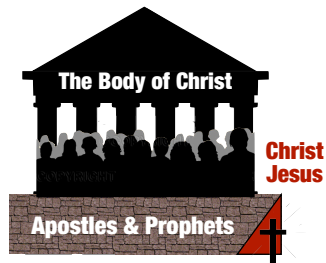


"the lord's supper"

The central symbol of our worship reflects the central theme of our faith.

Ephesians 2:20-21

“having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy **temple** in the Lord.”

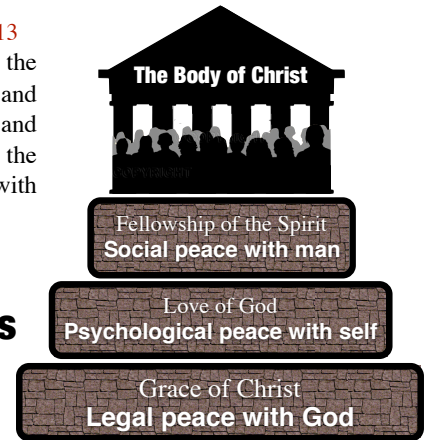


The church is the end game in God's plan not a means to another end.

2 Corinthians 13

“14 The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

Apostles & Prophets



Paul's great commission - a loving community.

Ephesians 4

“11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. . . 15 . . . speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

The path to a loving community starts at the Cross.



Implications for us today

- ✓ Cultivate mature relationships with other Christians and the church.
- ✓ Respect God's path to political peace.
- ✓ Remember that the Lord's Supper is a celebration of our common faith - grace, love, and fellowship.
- ✓ Effective evangelism starts with authentic community.

In the final analysis, with what do we leave this letter?

2 Corinthians 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,”