

Are You Living in Peace with God or are You still Biting the Apple?

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Review:

Col. 1:1–14, Paul and Timothy thank God for the Colossians' fruitful walk. Thus, they pray that God will grant them further understanding of His will so that their walk will reach new heights as they thank God for delivering them from the power of darkness.

I. Introduction

Man's life is wrought with tension and strife. Everywhere he goes, he encounters a struggle with his fellow man and creation. Why? It is because of the first man, Adam, who rebelled against God. Ever since then, man has been in conflict with himself and creation. However, the last Adam, Christ, brought peace through His blood; He reconciled man and creation to God. He did this in order to see us stand perfect before Him. But in order for this to happen we must remain grounded in Him so that we will indeed bring glory to His Body.

II. The Entire Universe was Created by, is Subject to, and Continues because of the One who Brought Peace to Man and Creation by the Blood of His Cross (Col. 1:15–20)

Christ's humanity (as all mankind) is the image of the invisible God. However, He's no ordinary man; He's the "firstborn over all creation," which means that He's first in everything and has rights to everything because He created and sustains everything. It also means that He's the Head of the Church and was the first to be resurrected because He is the Preeminent One.

Does the fact that Christ controls everything comfort you? It should.

Christ as the image of God, was the first man to properly bare God's image as man. In fact, He went further and brought peace to the broken relationship between God and man and man and creation. One day this peace will be realized, Is. 11:6–9; Rev. 21:3.

III. Christ Reconciled Believers to God through His Death in order to Present them Blameless, but they Must Remain Grounded in Him (Col. 1:21–23)

Christ brought peace to mankind and creation, but He had you personally in mind when He did it. Think about this: the God of the universe bled and died for you. He did this so that one day He would see you stand perfect before Him. The corporate body of the Church will stand in glory before Him. But how much glory you bring to the Body is not guaranteed; that is up to you. Will you stay grounded in Him or not?

IV. Paul follows Christ and Suffers His Share in order to see Believers Stand Blameless in Christ's Body (Col. 1:24–29)

Like his Lord, Paul suffered his share so that each member of the Body would one day stand perfect, 1:28–29. He also does as he preaches (1:11), he suffers with joy. What have you done for Christ's Body lately?

God commissioned Paul to this suffering concerning the Gentiles, Acts 9:15–16. One thing in Specific He wanted Paul to do is reveal the mystery, i.e., the close access Gentiles would have to Messiah, something never before revealed in Scripture. Thus, Paul and Timothy were glad to preach and teach this in order to see everyone stand perfect in Christ's Body, something Paul struggled for intensely through God's power.

V. CONCLUSION

Ever since Adam, man has been in conflict with his Creator. However, the last Adam, Christ, brought peace through His blood; He reconciled man and creation to God. He did this in order to one day see all of us stand perfect before Him. However, for this to happen individually, each one must remain grounded in Him so that he/she will do his/her part in bringing glory to His Body.