

¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

- ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,
- but you are citizens with the saints
- and also members of the household of God,
²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.
²¹In him the whole structure is joined together
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;
²²in whom you also are built together spiritually
into a dwelling place for God.

**THE CROSS OF JESUS BRINGS ALL THINGS TOGETHER:
Even the Whole Universe!**

Colossians 1:18-23

- ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church;
- he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.

¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

²⁰and through him

God was pleased to reconcile to himself

all things -- whether on earth or in heaven --

by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

²² **he has now reconciled**

in his fleshly body through death,

so as to present you holy and blameless

and irreproachable before him—

²³*provided that you continue securely*

established and steadfast in the faith,

*without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard,
which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.*

I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

D. Bonhoeffer: Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace.

The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing...

...In such a Church the world finds a cheap covering for its sins; no contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin.

Cheap grace therefore amounts to a denial of the living Word of God, in fact, a denial of the Incarnation of the Word of God.

David A. Renwick
National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC
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“Reconciled and United by the Cross”

**THE CROSS OF JESUS GIVES US FORGIVENESS OF SINS
AND THE HOPE OF HEAVEN**

1 Corinthians 15:3

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake God made him (Jesus) to be [A SACRIFICE FOR] sin
who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 1:7-8

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood,

the forgiveness of our trespasses,

according to the riches of his grace

⁸that he lavished on us, with all wisdom and insight

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all,
the righteous for the unrighteous,

Romans 4:25

[Jesus] was handed over to death for our trespasses
and was raised for our justification.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have obtained access to this grace
in which we stand;

and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. (see John 3:16)

1 Peter 3:18 . . . For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous → in order to bring you to God.

Romans 5:2 . . . through whom we have access

THE CROSS OF JESUS ACCOMPLISHES GOD'S PASSION FOR RECONCILIATION – And Gives us Our Ministry

2 Corinthians 5:15-20

¹⁵[Jesus] died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; -- even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION;

¹⁹that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Matthew 5:21-26

²¹You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'

²²But I say to you that

- if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment;
- and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council;
- and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.

²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, *if you remember* that your brother or sister has something against you,

- ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go;
- first be reconciled to your brother or sister,
- and then come and offer your gift.
- ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Romans 5:8-11

⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

THE CROSS OF JESUS BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER – With God and One Another –

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

^{2:11}So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" — a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands

— ¹²remember that you were at that time

- without Christ,
- being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,
- and strangers to the covenants of promise,
- having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³But now

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

¹⁴For he is our peace, in his flesh

- he has made both groups into one
- and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.
- ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

¹⁷So he came and proclaimed

peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near;