



Brought Near Into Grace

What if I told you that there is no longer a middle wall of separation between Holy God and imperfect Man? Know that the veil that separated God from Man has been torn from top to bottom at the death of Christ. However, Religion will always come and tell you otherwise by attempting to sow back the torn veil. It will tell you that there still remains a separation between Man and God unless **YOU** make yourself worthy first. But that's like saying, "Clean yourself first before showering."

-What is religion?

Great question. Religion is Man trying to approach God with self-righteousness, self-effort, and self-sacrifice. Basically, it is this: "My good deeds have deserved God's favor." It is all about **YOU** - your obedience, your works, your righteousness, and your goodness to become acceptable to God. It is like a corpse wearing a Gucci suit. It is like taking an old raggedy shirt and sewing a Versace label to it. Such amend will not change the state of that which is dead or old. He did not come to turn bad people into good people or good people into canonized beings. He came to make dead people live.

Colossians 1:21-22, NLT

21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

The fact is God approached Man in the person of Jesus Christ. When we were far away, He came near to us. When we declared our enmity towards Him, He declared His friendship by laying down His life for us. When we did our worst, He gave us His best. He has reconciled us to Himself through the death of Christ. The word *reconciled* means, "to restore into friendship."

He did it so you are able to stand before Him in His own presence, so He can enjoy your presence.

But the question is when? When will you be able to stand before Him in His own presence? Is it someday when you get your act together? Is it when you have done enough to tip the balance towards good? Is it through your obedience, your works, or your rituals? No Way!

Ephesians 2:13, NKJV

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

You are brought near to God via His Son Jesus - by believing that Christ has taken your sin via His death and imparted His life to you via His resurrection! You come near by His blood alone – by believing that His blood alone has washed you clean and made you acceptable. Then, that which is dead becomes alive and that which is old becomes new.

Ephesians 2:14-16, NKJV

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Firstly, Jesus Himself is our peace. This is the reason why God is no longer angry with Man. The chastisement for our peace fell upon Him; there is peace between God and Man! Because of His flesh, sin has been rendered judged and the middle wall that separated Man from God has been broken down.

-What was this middle wall of separation?

Observe closely; the middle wall of separation was the Law of Commandments! But notice it is not just the “Ten Commandments” but the Law contained in ordinances. In other words, any standard that puts the burden upon **YOU** to deserve the favor of God to try to appease God’s anger, to try to deserve righteousness. The truth is *His* flesh has removed every barrier between you and God because He has removed the very thing that kept you an enemy and far away from Him – the Law.

Hebrews 10:19-20, NKJV

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh.

Jesus lived a sinless life. That qualified Him to be a judge. But instead of judging you, Jesus said, “Let all there sin come to Me. I will offer Myself for them.” His life was used as our acquittal. His flesh became the sacrifice needed to bring you into Grace. As His flesh received all chastisement for sin, His flesh became the torn veil! Now, when you look at His crucified body (torn veil), it says – all sins put away and fulfilled Law! It is an invitation to come near.

A great theologian says it like this:

- “Jesus does not give recipes that show the way to God as other teachers of religion do. He is Himself the way” – **Karl Barth**

Now that He has reconciled you to Himself, I implore you that you now be reconciled to God. If you believe in God, believe also in Him. Will you come as you are and enter through the torn veil?

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