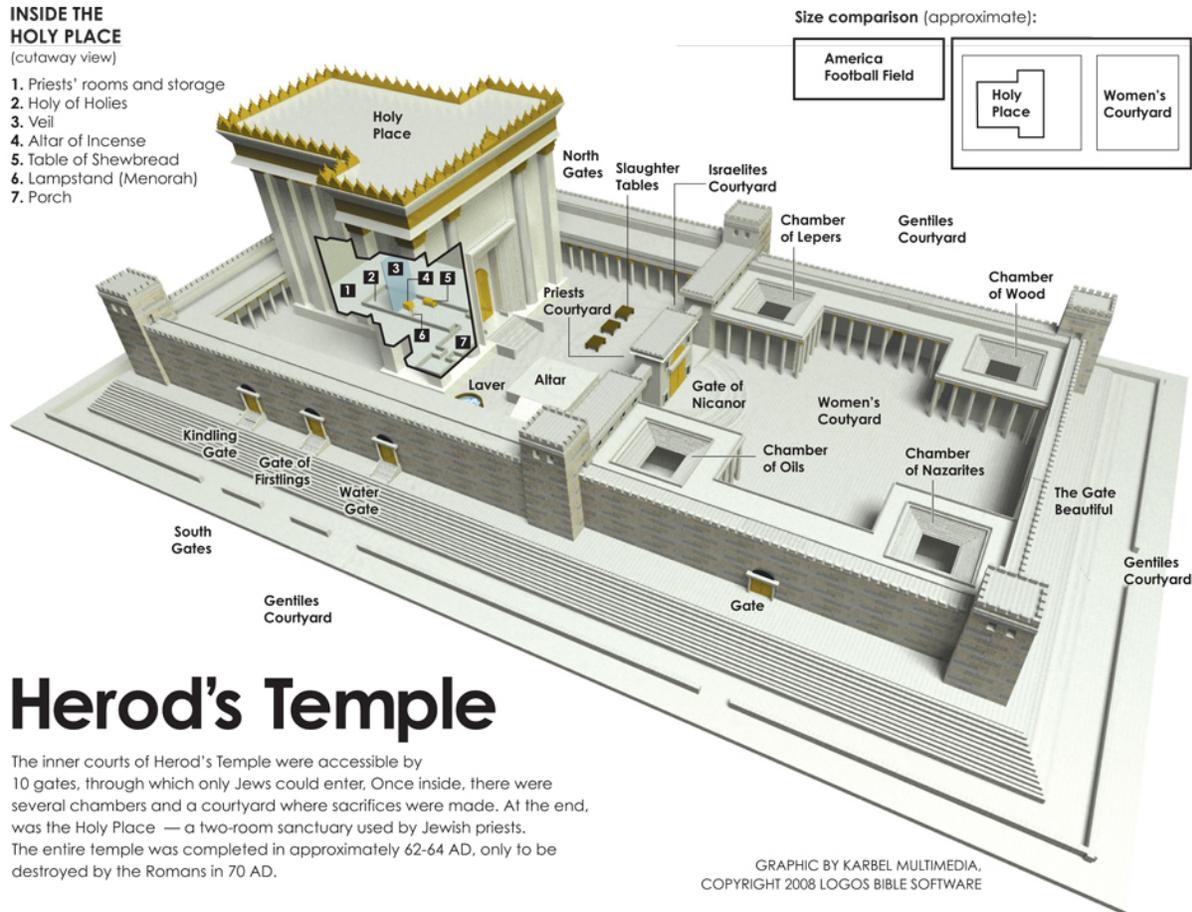


## The End of Hostility — The Power of Unity

### CFG Study Guide

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. (Eph 2:14)*

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and pray for the Spirit's illumination and guidance as you meditate on his Word together, and what it means for our lives.



2. Can you remember a time when you felt mistreated or oppressed, because of your gender, background, ethnicity, accent, education, or something else?
3. Hostilities and tensions between people aren't very different than they were 2000 years ago. Paul mentions different categories that often separate people, in Colossians 3:11 —

*Here [in the Body of Christ] there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

And in Galatians 3:27-28 he adds: *“there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

4. Take a few minutes to think of current conflicts between people, personal or otherwise. Fill in some names or categories of people here:

*Here [in the Body of Christ] there is no \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

5. Now read Colossians 3:11-12—

*Here [in the Body of Christ] there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. **Therefore**, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

6. Why are we to “clothe ourselves” with those attributes?
7. In Eph 2:19, the word “stranger” is *xenos*. We get *xenophobia* from that Greek word. But we don't often use the word *philoxenia*—“love for strangers.”

*Heb 13:2 — Do not neglect to show philoxenia [hospitality to strangers], for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

*Rom 12:13 — Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show philoxenia*

*Luke 14:12-14—[Jesus] said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*

8. We think of hospitality as inviting our good friends to dinner, people who are easy to be around. When you are thinking about who to invite over, who do you first think of? Who else might God want you to invite, instead or in addition?
9. Because that's how Jesus thought about us: “*Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.*”<sup>1</sup>
10. Spend time in prayer together, thanking Jesus that He sought and rescued us when we were strangers and exiles, without hope because of our sin. Thank the Father for His vision to spread the gospel to all nations. Ask the Spirit to build unity and brotherly love at APC and throughout the Body of Christ.

---

<sup>1</sup> Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, verse 3.