

# A GRAVE FOR HATE

Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

(continued...)

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

(continued...)

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

(continued...)

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22

“The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people...’”

Luke 18:11

## 4 Steps to True Conversation

- Do not assume bad intent
- Ask questions
- Stay calm
- Make the argument

From TED Talk by Megan Phelps-Roper

Jesus' body on the cross become a grave for hate.



“Christ in his death was slain,  
but the slain was a slayer too.”

“Identity is a complex set of layers, for we are many things. Our occupation, ethnic identity, etc., are part of who we are. But we assign different values to these components and thus Christian maturing is a process in which the most fundamental layer of our identity becomes our self-understanding as a new creature in Christ along with all our privileges in him.”

Timothy Keller, *Gospel Christianity*

A Prayer of Reconciliation:

“Lord Christ, help us to see what it is  
that joins us together,  
not what separates us.

For when we see only what it is that makes us different,  
we too often become aware of what is wrong with others.  
We only see their faults and weaknesses,  
interpreting their actions as flowing from  
malice or hatred rather than fear.

(continued...)

Even when confronted with evil, Lord,  
you forgave and sacrificed yourself  
rather than sought revenge.

Teach us to do the same by the power of your Spirit.“

William Breault, SJ

# Conduits vs. Filters

“Yes. At first I did fight back. I made some of them sorry that they had attacked me. But then I realized that by fighting back I wasn’t getting anywhere. The hatred coming at me in those fists and clubs was bouncing right off me back into the air, and it could just continue to spread like electricity. I decided not to fight back. I would let my body absorb that hatred, so that some of it would die in my body and not bounce back into the world.”

*The Good Fight: How Christians Suffer, Die, and Rise with Jesus*