

**1. Vertical atonement**

- a) What precious truth did Paul share with the Ephesians and also with us? Ephesians 2:1-7, 11-13
- b) Why was it important for Paul to emphasize that Christ’s saving work was not only for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles?
- c) What was the “middle wall of separation” that Jesus broke down? Ephesians 2:14 (compare Matthew 10:5-6 with Mark 16:15)
- d) What words of Jesus remind us that God desires to save all His children, regardless of our ethnicity? John 3:16, Mark 16:15, Luke 19:10, etc.
- e) Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is searching for all His lost sheep. Where were you when Jesus found you?

**2. Horizontal atonement**

- a) How does Christ’s saving work bring atonement on a horizontal level? Ephesians 2:14-16
- b) How can we be certain that the Ten Commandments were not nailed to the cross? Romans 3:31,7:12
- c) Notice how this theme of reconciled relationships is repeated in Paul’s letter to Christians in Ephesus. Ephesians 2:16, 4:32, 5:2
- d) Where else in the Scriptures do we find confirmation that Christ’s saving work for us (vertical atonement) will result in loving relationships with one another (horizontal atonement)? Luke 19:8-10, John 13:34-35, etc.

- e) What are some ways that Satan seeks to bring division even among followers of Jesus?
- f) How can we experience the complete horizontal atonement that God desires for each one of us? Romans 5:1-5, Galatians 2:20-21, etc.
- g) Share a time when you recognized the need for horizontal atonement. How did God help you on that journey of reconciliation?

**3. Peace with God and with one another**

- a) Ephesians 2:17-18 What peace is Paul referring to here—peace with God or peace with one another? (See also Ephesians 1:2, 6:23)
- b) Ephesians 2:19-22 How does Paul’s description of the church as a holy temple illustrate our peace with God and with each other? (See also 1 Peter 2:4-5)
- c) How is the peace that Jesus offers much more than simply an absence of conflict? John 16:33
- d) Notice Paul’s reminder that we are called to share this gospel of peace with others. Romans 10:13-15
- e) Share a time when you were enabled and blessed to tell someone about the gospel of peace. How did this experience impact your life?

