

A scenic landscape featuring a large, gnarled tree with dense green foliage growing on a rocky, grassy cliffside. The tree's trunk is thick and dark, with several branches extending outwards. The cliff is composed of large, greyish-brown rocks with patches of green grass. In the background, a vast valley stretches out, with rolling hills and a small town or village visible in the distance. The sky is a pale, hazy green, suggesting a misty or overcast day. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

**PEACE:
Everybody
Needs Some**

John 17:20-21 (NIV)

20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, JUST AS you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so THAT the world may believe that you have sent me.”

We Are Mediators of Peace

- **Human nature is filled with conflict and dysfunction.**

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Ephesians 2:11-12

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)—¹² 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.

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Ephesians 2:13-18

BUT NOW in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

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- **God transforms our nature and redeems our story, giving us a new identity.**
- **Our new nature, story, and identity redefine how we see and treat people!**

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**What do the following images mean,
and how do they guide me in how I
view and treat others?**

- Fellow citizens (v. 19)**
- God's household (v. 19-20)**
- God's holy temple (v. 21-22; 2
Corinthians 6:16)**

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- **Our new nature, story, and identity redefine how we see and treat people.**
- **Our new reality calls us to our mission.**

Deeper Dive

- **How do we see others? What is our attitude toward others? Toward community?**
- **How have you been able to bless others this past week?**
- **Are there attitudes, disappointments, hurts, or fears that hold you back from blessing others and engaging in community? If so, how can you move forward by finding freedom from these issues? Whom can you talk to?**