

# Be Peacemakers—Laying Down Our Perceived Rights

Rev. Dr. Lee Tan Peng | STM Faculty

I was deeply moved by a song during worship on an STM Sunday at a church. As the words were sung, I was reminded of Jesus Christ, who willingly laid down His life for us. Through His sacrifice, He brought us peace—not only peace with God, but also peace with one another.

Paul writes: “His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility” (Ephesians 2:15–16).

This passage invites us to examine our own relationships. Are there walls we have built around our hearts? Are there grudges, prejudices, or wounds that continue to divide us from others? Jesus not only calls us to receive His peace but also to become instruments of His peace.

The song's lyrics reminded me that following Christ means laying down our perceived rights—the rights we believe we deserve, such as being treated fairly, having our own way, or putting our interests first. As we gaze upon the cross, we are reminded that true discipleship often involves surrendering our claims, privileges, and expectations for the sake of obedience to God, love for others, and the unity of His people.

The daily life of the church is the ongoing outworking of God's redemptive plan. We are called to live a new life in Christ, marked by holiness, love, humility, and mutual submission. The cross is more than a symbol of forgiveness; it is God's answer to our brokenness and division. Through Christ's death, the wall of hostility between God and humanity was torn down, and the barriers that separate people from one another were removed. In Christ, we are brought into one body, united by His grace and love.

As we remember our identity as Christ's disciples, may we be willing to lay down our pride, our resentment, and even our perceived rights, just as He laid down His life for us. May His peace reign in our hearts, enabling us to live in reconciliation with God and with one another, and to bear witness to the unity He has accomplished through the cross.



# 作和平之子——放下自以为当得的权利

李丹萍牧师（博士）| 讲师

在一次的神学主日崇拜中，一首诗歌深深触动了我。歌词让我再次默想主耶稣在十字架上为我们舍弃生命。祂藉着自己的牺牲成就了和好——不仅使我们与上帝和好，也带来人与人之间的和睦。

保罗说：“废掉那记在律法上的规条，为要使两方藉着自己造成一个新人，促成了和平；既在十字架上消灭了冤仇，就藉这十字架使双方归为一体，与上帝和好。”（弗2:15-16，和合本修订版）

这段经文邀请我们省察自己的人际关系。我们的心中是否筑起了一道道高墙？是否仍然怀着怨恨、偏见，或被过去的伤害所捆绑，以致与他人产生隔阂？主耶稣不仅呼召我们领受祂所赐的平安，也呼召我们成为传递和睦的器皿。

诗歌的歌词提醒我，跟随基督意味着放下那些我们自以为当得的权利——我们总以为理当被公平对待、坚持自己的意思，或总是把自己的利益放在首位。然而，当我们仰望十字架时，就会再次被提醒，真门徒的生命往往意味着甘愿放下自己的权利、特权和期待；顺服上帝、爱人如己，以及维护基督身体的合一。

实际上，我们的教会生活就是上帝救赎计划持续不断的实践与彰显。上帝呼召我们在基督里活出新生命，以圣洁、爱心、谦卑和彼此顺服作为生命的标记。十字架不仅是赦罪的记号，更是上帝解决人类破碎与分裂的答案。藉着基督的受死，上帝与人之间敌对的高墙被拆毁，人与人之间彼此隔绝的墙也被除去。在基督里，因着祂的恩典与慈爱，同归于一个身体，彼此联结。

因此，当我们再次思想自己是基督门徒的身分，愿我们甘心放下自己的骄傲、怨恨，甚至那些自以为当得的权利，正如基督甘愿为我们舍弃自己的生命一样。愿基督的平安在我们心中掌权，使我们不仅与上帝和好，也与人和睦，并借着彼此相爱的生命，见证祂藉着十字架所成就的合一。

