

## SERMON NOTES

Saturday/Sunday, July 20/21, 2024 – Pastor Kischnick

**THEME:** “He Himself Is Our Peace”    **TEXT:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**INTRO.** 12 days → going abroad, leaving the country > Canada: It’s like this whole other country! Laugh: signs in km/hr. and French, moose crossing signs, not raccoons/possums but porcupines/beavers, sit-down restaurants all have “poutine”.

**TEXT:** Paul – Gentiles were “excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise.” GENTILES = most of us. Once far away, through C. Jesus we are brought near. “For He himself is our peace.” No longer strangers and foreigners! Peace w/ God & others.

### I. THE OLD COVENANT WAS EXCLUSIVE

**ILLUST.** I am from German Lutheran community. 360\* - all German Lutherans but one > “die Frempten” – strangers and outsiders.

- A. God chose Abraham to bring blessing to all the nations of earth.
  - 1. Israel to be the “womb” from which Messiah would spring.
  - 2. Other nations did not know God/his Word/his Law.
- B. They were outside the Covenant.
  - 1. Without hope and without God and his Truth.
  - 2. Most were hostile toward Israel. The “Weird Nation”.

### II. JESUS MAKES ONE FROM TWO

**ILLUST.** Prince Kolubah > African Immigrant Fellowship: Sudanese, Congolese, Liberians, Kenyans, Somalians, Nigerians, Ugandans, Zambians, Rwandans, etc. Different tongues, dress, food, customs, yet all praising God through his Son, Jesus. Very different, yet one in spirit.

- A. Jesus is our peace with *GOD*.
  - 1. Our sin covered by his blood.
  - 2. Brought into “the very household of God” – family.
  - 3. Truly made “brothers and sisters in Christ.”
- B. Jesus is our peace with *OTHERS*.
  - 1. The “dividing wall of hostility” is removed by his blood.
  - 2. No more male or female, Jew or Gentile, Greek or barbarian, Luth. or Catholic, Orthodox or Protestant → now One in Christ.

**ILLUST.** Robbyn Siebert – “This is my friend, Mary – my sister by choice.”

- C. No room for prejudice:
  - 1. Christ died for ALL.    2. We are all sons & daughters of the King!

**CLOSE:** REALIZE that today all around the world, people have come to churches? They came with different languages, clothes, customs, music, skin color, but with one accord – to worship God through his Son, Jesus Christ. Different, yet one body. “He himself is our peace.”