



## “Gent(i)le Saints”

The Church’s Calling  
Ephesians 2:11-22

Jesus gave us :

**I. Privilege** - “are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (v. 11-13)

Our Past was:

A. **Hapless** – “aliens...of Israel”

B. **Hopeless** – “having no hope”

C. **Helpless** – “without God in the world”

**SLIDE** – The Change brought by **Position of Privilege**

**II. Peace** – “For He is our peace” (v. 14-18)

Our Peace comes with :

A. **Sacrifice** – “having abolished... the enmity”

He is our peace v. 14

B. **Scripture** - “came and preached peace”

John 8:32 – know the truth and the truth sets you free

C. **Supplication** - “through Him...access by one Spirit”

Phil 4:6-7

**III. Purpose** - “for an habitation of God” (v. 19-22)

Our Purpose is connect to our:

A. **Foundation** – “are built upon the foundation”

B. **Formation** – “fitly framed together”

C. **Function** – “the household of God”

**CONCLUSION:**

*What dividing walls has Christ broken down for you? What walls remain unbroken?*

Sentence Sermon:

*“As Gent(i)le believers, We must denounce racism & root out prejudice that stands in the way of God loving others through me .”*

Additional Verses

Acts 10:34-36

➤ Acts 11:1-18

➤ Acts 15:1-9

➤ Acts 17:26

➤ Galatians 2:12

➤ Galatians 3:28

➤ Galatians 5:1-4

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What verse does verse 11 follow? Why?
- 2. What group of people was despised by the “people of God” during the first century? Why do you think that was?
- 3. Can you name at least 4 main words repeated in the text?
- 4. Who are the main characters found in the text?
- 5. Why do we have such difficulty loving those different than us?

## INTRO:

What are walls for? Can you think of any famous walls? How many of you think it was cool the way President Reagan said, "Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

### V. 11

- Wherefore remember = So do not forget where you came from
- In time past = before Acts/Paul
- Gentiles in the flesh = Not born a Jew
- Uncircumcision = "foreskin" - derogatory term like ...unclean
- Circumcision in the flesh made by hands = Jews by blood line...Maybe believers...maybe not believers (cp. Romans 2:28-29).

### V. 12

- That at that time = when we were unsaved
- Without Christ = not "in Christ"
- Aliens =
- Strangers
- No Hope
- Without God
- In this world = hopeless and helpless even in this world, but surely in the world to come.

### V. 13

- But now = Notice how it recalls v. 4 ...But now God has changed all that
- In Christ Jesus = The place to be
- Made nigh = brought close = endearment
- By the blood = Is it important...YES !!

### V. 14

- He is = currently
- Our peace = we do not earn, keep, or protect it
- Made both one = those far off and those close in, ie. Gentiles and Jews
- Broken down the middle wall of partition = removed any stigmas or reason for segregation

(picturing perhaps the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Jews.)

### V. 15

- Having abolished in His flesh = by dying on the Cross, Jesus rendered distinctions legally moot.
- The law...in ordinances = He fulfilled the law and thereby freed us from focusing on the law but rather on His Life and example.
- To make in Himself = In Christ...as Christians
- One new man = not new as in new in time but a whole new entity...not Gentile...Not Jew...but Christian...suggesting that the Church is not simply the Israel for this time...no, the church is unique and separate from the entity known as Israel
- Making peace = giving us the power (the Holy Spirit) to have peace.

## V. 16

- That He might = for the purpose of
- Reconcile both = Gentile and Jew
- Unto God = both were at odds with God
- In one body = the church
- By the cross having slain enmity thereby = The cross paid the price for sin and removes the reason for the conflict.

## V. 17

- And came and preached = when did Jesus preach to them?
- Preached peace = the desire was to make peace not stress fighting....He came under a white flag.
- To them which were far off and to them that were nigh = Gentiles and Jews...religious and nonreligious

## V. 18

- For through Him = Jesus is the way
- We both have access = For Gentiles and Jews...salvation is by Jesus
- By one Spirit = Holy Spirit
- Unto the Father = Trinitarian verse

## V. 19

- No more :
  - Strangers
  - Foreigners
- But
  - Fellowcitizens with the saints
  - Of the household of God – (parents, children, servants)

## V. 20

- And are built upon the foundation = Christians have as their heritage
- Of the apostles and prophets...Jesus Christ being the chief corner

## V. 21

- In whom all the building = Jesus is the one who the church depends on
- Fitly framed together =
- Growth unto=
- Holy temple in the Lord =

## V. 22

- In whom ye = believers in Christ
- Are builded together =
- For an habitation = purpose statement
- Of God through the Spirit = The Holy Spirit authenticates a habitation of God.