

The One New Man (Ephesians 2:11-18)

I. OPENING ILLUSTRATION

A. The Story of Mrs. Jenkins

B. MP: Like a parent, God yearns over his dead children, longing to be near them again.

- Hosea 11:1-4, 8-11
- *But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works.* – Psalm 73:28
- The nearness of his children is God's good, as well!

II. INTRODUCTION

A. Paul is writing to the Ephesians, and by extension to all (us) Gentiles

B. As previously, he is exhorting them to:

- Remember
- Recognize
- Rejoice

C. But here is also teaching them further about WHY they should remember, recognize, and rejoice:

- Because the great “mystery of God”—the New and Eternal Covenant—has been revealed
- Because the New Covenant has bestowed a New Form upon the people of God, what he here calls God’s One New Man
- Because they are privileged to be a part of this mystery, a part of God’s One New Man—the mystical Body of Christ

D. Outline of the Sermon

1. (11-12) The Jews Privileged Position, the Gentiles Pitiful Condition
2. (13) What God has now done
3. (14-18) How He Made it Possible
4. VI. (17-18) How He Makes it Real in Our Experience

III. (11-12) The Privileged Position of the Jews, the Pitiful Condition of the Gentiles

A. Text: *Remember, therefore, that formerly you who are Gentiles in the flesh—and who are called “the uncircumcision” by what is called “the circumcision” (a circumcision made only in the flesh by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

B. Key points to observe:

1. The Gentiles were scorned by the Jews

Remember, therefore, that formerly you who are Gentiles in the flesh—and who are called “the uncircumcision” by what is called “the circumcision” (a circumcision made only in the flesh by human hands)—

- A word about circumcision

2. The Gentiles enjoyed none of their privileges:

1. The privileges as described in Romans (Slide: Romans 9:1-5)

2. Ephesians 2 on how the Gentiles enjoyed none of them:

- Separated from Christ
- Alienated from the commonwealth of Israel
- Strangers to the covenants of promise

3. As a result, the Gentiles were spiritually destitute

- Having no hope
- Without God in the world Slide: (Mt. 4:12-16)

IV. (13) What God Has Now Done

A. Text: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

B. Key Points:

1. You once were far off

2. Now you have been brought near
3. You were brought near by the blood of Christ
4. With the result that you are near IN CHRIST JESUS

V. (14-18) An Explanation of How He Made it Possible

A. Text: *For He Himself is our peace, who made both into one, and who broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the source of the enmity—the Law of commandments contained in ordinances—so that in Himself He might create, from the two, one new man, thereby making peace, ¹⁶ and might also reconcile them both to God in one Body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

B. Elements/Key Points:

- For He Himself is our peace
- Who made both (groups) into one
- Who broke down the barrier of the dividing wall
- Having abolished in his flesh the source of the enmity
- The Law of commandments contained in ordinances
- So that in Himself he might create from the two One New Man
- Thereby making peace
- And might also reconcile them both to God
- In one Body
- Through the cross
- Hereby putting to death the enmity

VI. (17-18) An Explanation of How He Makes it Real in our Experience

A. Text: *And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

B. Elements/Key Points

- And He came
- And preached
- Peace
- To you who were far off
- And to those who were near
- For through Him
- We both have access
- By (in) one Spirit
- To the Father

VII. APPLICATION/CONCLUSION

A. Be very grateful:

- That you were born in these last days
- That you incorporated into the one new man, whereas most Jews were not
- That you enjoy manifold PRESENT blessings
- And also eternal good hope in Christ!

B. Be very humble:

If God broke off the Jews, that we Gentiles might be grafted in, know that they are the natural branches and we the wild; and that Gentiles WILL be broken off, and Jews WILL be grafted back in! (Slide: Rom. 11:19-24)

C. Be of this mindset:

- Drawn in, sent out
- Worship, work
- Hear, obey