

Sermon Series: *Identity*

6/14/26, “God’s Idea of Integration,” Eph. 2:11-22, NLT

INTRODUCTION never feel a part of? Mrs. Smith’s class I certainly felt alienated... feel God is distant, doesn’t hear... feel discord, fear/anxiety/loneliness/despair

MAIN IDEA: Jesus is our peace. How? Here are four things He has given us that give us peace.

I. First, inclusion... *by His blood* (11-13)

NOTE: Circumcision...purpose, reality, Jewish perspective

- A. formerly excluded from God... **by ourselves**
 - 1. apart from Christ
 - 2. alienated from those who were Jewish nationals
 - 3. strangers to the covenant promises
 - 4. without hope
 - 5. without God

- B. but now in Christ Jesus by His blood... **brought in**
 - 1. brought near...into His Presence

brought (13): implying motion, it denotes change or transition to another place, to come (Jesus’ blood brought us near to God)

near (13): close, near; to embrace the gospel (and become a child of God, part of His family—part of the “in crowd”)

- 2. a friend of God (John 15:15)
- 3. included in God’s family... with brothers & sisters

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, integration... *by His body on the cross* (14-16)... **we fit**

- A. integrating non-Jews with Jews... *a new man* (14, 15)
- B. having torn down the dividing wall: the Law... *religious requirements that proved our sinfulness* (14)
 - 1. He fulfilled the Law... *punishment by His body*
 - 2. observance of the Law no longer an expectation... *perfection, impossible obedience*

- 3. reconciling both to God (16)

C. bringing peace between Jewish & Gentile believers

- 1. no grounds for pride or prejudice
- 2. reconciling us all—Jew & Gentile—to God

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, access... *by His Spirit* (17-18)... **in God’s Presence**

- A. Jesus came to us & preached peace... *to us who were far away—Gentiles; and to those near—Jews*
- B. the Holy Spirit stirred in us

John 16:8-11, NLT: And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

- C. the Spirit opened the door to the Father... *direct access to*

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Finally, abode... *by His Spirit* (19-22)... **safe & secure home**

- A. members of God’s household
 - 1. fellow citizens with all of God’s saints... *OT, NT, saints we have known & admired*
 - 2. He keeps the door, letting in only His children
- B. a house built on His Word
 - 1. Jesus Christ Himself—the chief cornerstone
 - 2. the teachings of the Apostles & prophets (Bible)
- C. His Spirit building us into God’s dwelling place

Rev. 21:3, NLT: I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: pray in small groups for one another