**June 4, 2017 “He is Our Peace” Ephesains 2:14-22**

As most of you know, I have not always been a Pastor. I started off in my working career as a plumber. Then went to electronics school and worked for a time as a television troubleshooter only to quit that to work structural steel. From there, I worked as a heating and air conditioning installer and from there became an appliance and furnace repair man while working for a gas company. Shortly after that, I learned the construction trade and owned my own business for several years, working construction during the day and driving truck at night. Finally, at age 36, I went to school to become a Pastor and have been bi-vocational for the last 26 years.

Why have I told you all this, this morning? It is because I still feel strange when someone refers to me as Pastor Larry and the reason I feel strange is that the only calling I have is to help all of you to understand that the Bible means exactly what it says and we all are required to read with understanding. Consequently, my role is to use every single one of my abilities, every one of my faculties and all of my background to help as many people as I can to realize all that Christ has done for them so that they in their lives might be a living breathing example of the Glory and Grace of God to every single person with which they have contact.

I hope by now we all understand why we are studying the Book of Ephesians this year. For those who have not been here for the entire time, let me reiterate that the Book of Ephesians is broken down into two parts. The first three chapters deal with the position of every believer and the second part (chapters 4-6) instructs us on how we should then live… because we now know what Christ has done for us in chapters 1-3.

That is why chapter 4 starts out with the word… “Therefore”. Because you now know all that Christ has done… act like this…

1. Ephesians 2:14-22
	1. Theme is unity
		1. If there is one thing this world does not have it is “unity”
		2. Syria, Middle East, Afghanistan… terrorism
		3. Look at our own country with the way our President it being treated
	2. What about within the Church?
		1. Why are there so many denominations?
			1. Cornerstone, Jacobs Well, Living Word, Peace Fellowship, Osseo Community and probably a thousand or more other names
		2. Last week… I preached at a funeral
			1. Lady told me… her Pastor will not
				1. Visit the dying
				2. Attend a graduation service at another church

Even if students from their church are graduating

1. Why does this happen?
	1. Let’s look first at what causes dis-unity
		1. I Corinthians 11:17-22
			1. What was the problem here?
			2. Each one was looking out for their own self interests
				1. Results

Sporadic church attendance

Sunday is my only day to…

Hebrews 10:23-25… forsake not the assembling of yourselves

Sporadic giving

If people only knew how little I have

II Corinthians 9:6-7

You cannot out give God

Sporadic serving

Let someone else do it

Let someone else bring it

Luke 22:24-30

* 1. What then is the cause of unity?
		1. Philippians 2:1-4
			1. Why would anyone have this attitude?
				1. Ephesians 2:13-17

We are the body of Christ

I Peter 1:22-2:5

* + 1. Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20)
			1. We are being fitted together as a holy temple in the Lord
	1. I Timothy 1:12-17
		1. When all glory and honor is given to Him
			1. Then there is always “unity”
		2. Ephesians 2:18
			1. Trinity… in unity
		3. Ephesians 2:19
			1. We are the family of God
				1. We are of His household
		4. Ephesians 2:20-22
			1. We are being built into a dwelling of God
			2. In the Holy Spirit

Is it any wonder that we can sing with all of our hearts…? “He is Our Peace?”