MESSAGE NOTES
Church In Action: Solidarity – Part 3
Toward Unity In Our Nation
Ephesians 2:11-22

As we celebrate the 4th of July this week, we celebrate it in a nation which is divided and where so many people are at odds with one another over a variety of social, political, and racial issues. And so how can we as followers of Jesus be an influence for unity in our nation? How do we change our city, nation, and world for Jesus? How do we change the spiritual atmosphere of our community?

PLACE FOR NOTES:

O how we need that in our world where instead of people living in solidarity with one another, we live in an age of finger-pointing. So much of this finger-pointing is regrettable. We see **Regrettable finger-pointing** and hear it in the tone of the comments made by politicians and their constituency voicing their contempt for the other side. The tone is largely one of finger-jabbing, a finger full of anger, fear, and pride.

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Redemptive finger-pointing…

See Psalm 68:32-35 and the last words of the Psalm which are engraved on the top of the Washington Monument – a national symbol which points to God. **Praise be to God!**

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Living as fingers pointing to God… See Ephesians 2:11-18 for how this can happen, and how God's people can help be part of bringing unity to our divided nation…

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Too many Christians today are modeling their style of political and social and religious discourse after what we hear on the various news networks. This does not lead to the praise of God or the transforming enlightenment of others. We would do well to reflect the counsel the Apostle Paul gave to his protégé Timothy amidst a season of great conflict in his church and culture: See 2 Timothy 2:23-25 ….

PLACE FOR NOTES:

In the heat of the Civil War, an admirer said to Abraham Lincoln that she was very sure that God was on the Union side. Lincoln responded by saying, "Madam, I find it more helpful to keep asking God to show me whether I am on *his* side." This is a good thing to ask because an open and honest reading of the Bible shows that God holds some views which conservatives hold today and other views which liberals hold today. Examples…

PLACE FOR NOTES

(OVER)

In a world where so many others are willing to give the finger to those with whom they disagree, it is now essential that Christians be a finger pointing toward the God who still reaches out to touch this world with his redeeming love, and where justice and mercy meet in the humility of Jesus Christ.

PLACE FOR NOTES: