THE GREAT DISCONNECT

Sunday, October 12, 2025 — Mr. Steven Cauthen

ROMANS 9:1-5 English Standard Version ESV

> *I am speaking the truth in Christ--I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit-- 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.*

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

1) **Israel, Jewish people in current events a lot these days:**
   - October 7, 2023
   - Ceasefire deal
   - High Holy Days
2) **In our community around us, there are many Jewish people.**
   - 600,000 in South Florida
   - Sixth largest Jewish community in the world
   - Large community right around our church neighborhood
3) **They are focused on a lot in the Bible but we seem so far apart these days**
   - *Why?*
   - *What to do about it?*

BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS Romans 9:4-5

1) The connections between our faith and Jewish people are profound.
   - Jesus & Apostles were Jewish
   - New Testament writers were Jewish except possibly Luke
   - Old Testament quotes in the New Testament
     - Over 800 quotes or allusions
     - Around 8,000 verses in NT
   - Messianic Prophecy is the foundation for believing in Jesus
   - Spring Feasts
     - Feast of Passover
     - Feast of Firstfruits
     - Feast of Weeks

2) Feast of Booths as an example of our connection.

- Old Testament passages & meaning:
  - Deuteronomy 16:13-15 – "Rejoice"
  - What was there to be joyful about remembering the wilderness?
  - God was among His people Exodus 29:45-46
- Future of Sukkot Zechariah 14:16-17
- John 1:14 He tabernacled among us
- Revelation 21:2-4 Tabernacle of God is with man
  - God and His people, relational God
- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (God "in" His people)

UNDERSTANDING THE DISCONNECTS

1) Not what most people expect: 2 Corinthians 3:12-15

- True in Paul's day and still now, but not the biggest stumbling block today
- Added issues almost 2,000 years later, but Paul foresaw this:

ROMANS 11:17-24

17 *But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,* **18** ***do not be arrogant*** *toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you.* **19** *Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."* **20** *That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So* ***do not become proud****, but fear.* **21** *For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.* **22** *Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.* **23** *And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.* **24** *For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.*

2) Arrogance and Antisemitism

- Nicaea Council about Easter date
- John Chrysostom: Eight Homilies against the Jews
- Martin Luther: On the Jews and their Lies

3) Persecution

- Deicide Charge
- Expulsions
- Pogroms
- Antisemitic policies in the USA
- The Holocaust

4) October 7, 2023 and its aftermath:

- Condemnation of Israel before they even responded.
- Antisemitic bias in reporting.
- Misleading information about the war stirring up (or revealing) hatred.
  - Important side point: ***How do we relate to the country of Israel?***
    - Called to pray for the peace of Jerusalem Psalm 122:6
    - Called to love the Jewish people
    - We should support the Jewish people's right to defend themselves
    - Doesn't mean we have to agree with all the Israeli government's decisions
    - Supporting Israel doesn't prevent you from supporting Palestinians. We should love and pray for them also. We have to stand outside of the politics and love like Jesus loved.
- Rise in antisemitic attacks.
- Fear to publicly identify as Jewish.
- A lot of this, in history and in the present, is done by "Christians".

II. HOW TO RECONNECT?

1) False perspectives some Christians have:

- Just don't care
- "They've had their chance and missed it. God is done with them."
- "They've been through too much, just leave them alone"
- Integrate Rabbinical Jewish practices into our faith
- Dual Covenant "Jewish people have their own way to God"

2) True reconnection

- Romans 9:1-3
  - Paul had a difficult relationship with his people
  - He had unceasing anguish
  - Wished he could be accursed if it would help them
- Love and care for our Jewish neighbors
- Celebrate the shared history we have
- Lovingly share the truth that has changed your life
  - As mentioned earlier, some avoid this
  - It could be said that this is the worst form of antisemitism
  - How much do you have to hate someone to see them in a burning building, but refuse to help?

ROMANS 10:12-15

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

- If done in love and respect, these conversations can even be enjoyable and deepen relationships (vs 15)

3) Relational God, Relational evangelism:

- Not bashing people on the head with the Gospel
- Not condemning them
- Loving them, understanding them, sharing with them
  - Show interest in and respect for their beliefs and practices
  - Stand against antisemitism in all its forms
  - Find connection points
  - Share the truth boldly and with love

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care"

CONCLUSION — APPLICATION to Our Lives:

See the need around us. Understand the connections we have with our Jewish neighbors. Work to overcome the disconnects. Help reconnect them with **their God** by sharing the love and the truth that changed your life with them.

- Romans 5:8
  but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- 1 John 4:19
  We love because He first loved us.

Our love for others should be the foundation of our interactions with them, especially for our Jewish neighbors with whom we have so much in common.