

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

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- I. Context
 - A. Before and after: 1-3, 4-10
 - B. Before and after 11-12; 13-18
 - 1. Emphasis on through Christ
 - 2. The blessings of nearness, peace and unity
 - a. Between men
 - b. Between man and God

- II. 2:19-22 then sums up
 - A. No longer strangers and aliens; see verse 12
 - B. But are
 - 1. Fellow citizens with the saints: the unity between men
 - 2. And are of God's household, His own family: the unity between man and God
 - C. Shift from household to house
 - 1. Foundation: founded on the revelation and teaching of the apostles and prophets; see Revelation 21:14
 - 2. Christ is the cornerstone (better translation than capstone, see Isaiah 28:16)
 - 3. We are the house
 - D. Temple
 - 1. Defines the type of building
 - 2. What a huge change: Gentiles, formerly kept out of the temple, are the temple
 - 3. Together: against individualistic concepts
 - 4. Growing: allow the Lord more and more to dwell in us
 - 5. The emphasis is on in Christ: union with Christ

- III. Numerous concepts to explore
 - A. The idea of our unity as fellow-citizens: Philippians 1:27
 - B. The idea of being God's own family; an awesome blessing
 - C. The teachings of the apostles are normative
 - 1. Consider the place of the apostles in Ephesians: 3:5; 4:11
 - 2. Consider other passages: Acts 2:42; 2 Peter 3:2; Jude 17
 - 3. We are founded on the revelation conveyed by the apostles and prophets
 - 4. The New Testament is a blueprint, the foundation document
 - 5. Must not progress away from apostolic teaching
 - D. Christ as corner stone
 - 1. Determines all the lines and angles of the building
 - 2. We find our true place and usefulness in relation to Jesus
 - 3. We find our rule and order in him
 - 4. Everything must be measured by the standard of authority revealed in the Word

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- E. Our vital link to Christ in this
 - F. The importance of our unity together
 - 1. There is no good reason for this individualistic Christianity notion
 - 2. God wants Christians to be with each other
 - G. What it takes for the Lord to live in us more and more

IV. Questions

- A. How does this section fit in with the first part of chapter 2?
- B. What contrast does Paul present in this section?
- C. What are the privileges and responsibilities of a fellow-citizen?
- D. In what sense are the apostles and prophets our foundation?
- E. What are the implications of Jesus being the corner stone?
- F. What does it mean for Christ to dwell in us?
- G. What do we need to do for Christ to dwell in us more and more?
- H. What things does Paul say to stress the aspect of togetherness in all of this?
- I. What is the role of the Spirit in this?