

Sermon Outline

Together in Christ, Part 4: "A Community Joined and Built Together"

Ephesians 2:11-22

Don DeVries, May 10, 2015

Main Idea: What does it look like to be a community shaped by the gospel and in ongoing fellowship with our triune God? Today's sermon reminds us that by faith in Christ we *are already* "fellow citizens," "members of the household of God" and "a dwelling place for God." Our calling, therefore, is to glorify God by living as we already are—a community joined and built together in Christ.

Sermon Outline:

1. Christ's Death Brought Us Near to God (2:11-13)
2. Christ's Death Abolished Walls to Create the Church (2:14-18)
3. Christ's Death is Building Us Together Into a Dwelling Place for God (2:19-22)
Metaphor #1: We are fellow citizens
Metaphor #2: We belong to God's family
Metaphor #3: We are God's dwelling place

Key Quotes: "That's what the Lord is doing with us. Christ, the Master builder takes living stones of every race and culture, of every gifting and background, both male and female and he shapes us with the chisel of our brothers and sisters. He shapes with the chisel of circumstances and places us just where we belong in the wall in His dwelling. Stone by stone, He is fitting us. Stone by stone He is building us; He is joining our lives together for His glorious purpose – that we should be the dwelling of God by His Spirit." Don

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-22.
2. Discuss the amazing transformation between our relationship with God and Christ before and after we were saved (Before Christ, we were: separated from Christ; alienated from God; foreigners to God and His covenant people; hopeless; and without God. Now, in Christ, we are: fellow citizens; we belong to God's family, and we are God's dwelling place).
3. Discuss the nature of the Gospel as that which breaks down the "dividing wall of hostility" between God and man and between people groups like Jew and Gentile. In a world that is filled with ethnic, social, racial, political and economic hostility, discuss how might God be calling you to reach people that are currently hostile to God and living with a "dividing wall" towards other people groups?
4. Discuss some of the ways that Don opened with that we can think of "church" wrongly (a **shopping mall, stadium, banquet** or as **optional**). How do these differ from God's definition and purposes for his one true church?
5. Discuss ways that you can encourage friends you know that are not fully engaged in the church to take one small step towards greater involvement (joining a small group or Bible study, serving on a ministry team, etc.). Close in prayer for one another.