

Who We Are! The Church – The Household Of God (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Outline By: Mark Knowles 7/29/18

Introduction

1. In our last lesson we looked at how Christ accomplished His great peace mission by uniting all peoples, races, nationalities, genders, etc., as one people – the church. We have been reconciled to God and to each other by the cross.
2. With the enmity gone we can live unified in grace...

Unification: What The Jews And Gentiles Are In Christ (2:19-22)

- a. *One Nation/Fellow Citizens (v19a)*
 - i. Israel rejected being God's chosen nation and Jesus gave it a new people that will bear fruit (Matthew 21:33-43). The "new nation" is the church (Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10).
 - ii. All believers, regardless of national background, belong to that "holy nation" with citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20–21).
- b. *One Family/The Household of God (v19b)*
 - i. Through faith and obedience in Christ, we enter into God's family, and God becomes our Father (1 Timothy 3:14-15; Matthew 12:47-50; Ephesians 4:16; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 14:26; 1 John 4:19-21).
- c. *One Temple (v20-22)*
 - i. The Old Testament temple was a stunning building. The inside was lavishly appointed with incredible amounts of gold, carvings, expensive wood, and marvelous tapestries. The walls were constructed of the finest stone. Two astonishing bronze pillars in front highlighted what may have been one of the most expensive buildings per square foot that has ever been constructed.
 - ii. God's next dwelling place was the body of Christ (John 1:14), which men took and nailed to a cross. Today, through His Spirit, God dwells in the church, the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 3:20-22).
 - iii. Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus is the basis of the whole structure, the cornerstone, the foundation. We are made into a holy temple where God dwells on this earth. How does Jesus build it? The Holy Spirit builds this temple by taking dead stones out of the pit of sin (Ps. 40:2-3; 1 Peter 2:4-5; Ephesians 2:21; 4:16).
 - iv. We have been saved by grace and Christ has seated us on the throne. We have been reconciled to God and set s into His temple. What a wonderful privilege to be part of God's church!