

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"The Household of God" # 9
Eph. 2:14, 19-22
9-3-17 Sun AM

1. Believing Jews and Gentiles in Christ are a new creation, a Christian [v.14]. No longer Jew and Gentile, but a Christian in one body, called the church, the temple of God.

Separation: Gentiles Were Without [vs. 11-12].

Reconciliation: What God did [vs. 13-18].

Unification: Jews and Gentiles both in Christ in a temple [vs. 19-22].

There are several metaphors for the church in the N.T-

Army of God- church militant, Flock of God- dependence, Family of God- nurture and relationship, Bride of Christ- intimacy and union, and building or temple- speaks of permanence and growth.

There are 9 temples mentioned in Scripture- 8 on earth

4 Past-

The mobile temple- tabernacle- Moses

Solomon's temple- Solomon

Zerubbabel's temple-

Herod's temple- restored by Herod and destroyed by the Roman's A.D. 70

3 Future-

Tribulation temple- 2 Thess. 2

Millennial temple- Ezek. 40-44

Eternal temple in the New Jerusalem- God is the temple.

2 Present-

Believer's body- I Cor. 6

The church of all ages and places which includes the local church [Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 3:10-11].

TT- Paul demonstrates this unity by 3 metaphors- Believing Jews and Gentiles are united in one citizenship, one family, and one temple.

I. We are united in heavenly citizenship [2:19a].

1. We were once strangers and outcasts, but now we are fellow citizens of God's kingdom with the saints- those from every age who trusted Christ.

2. There are no second-class citizens in this kingdom.

3. Our citizenship is in heaven-

Phil. 3:20, "For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

We are a colony of foreigners on earth representing heaven. Heaven is our home, our names are there, and our loved ones are there, our inheritance is there.

1 Peter 1:3-9 Our inheritance is reserved in heaven for us, in the meantime we are kept for it by the power of God, and go thru trials to prove and purify our faith.

Col. 1:5, “Our hope is laid up for you in heaven.” Reserved!

2. We are united in family membership [2:19b].

1. All believers are one spiritual family in Christ. Some of the family is on the earth, while some are already in heaven [3:15].

2. Two dangers to be avoided here-

(1). Those who deny a national restoration of Israel [Prophets; Rom. 9-11, Acts 1:6-9, Rev. 20].

(2). Being a friend of Israel and not giving them the gospel [dual Covenant theology].

III. We are united in the Holy Temple [2: 20-22].

1. The foundation [v. 20a].

The foundation is not the apostles and prophets, but the divine revelation they taught. They laid the foundation.

1 Cor. 3:10-11, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Matt. 7:24-27 Wise builder building his life on knowing and obeying the teachings of Christ.

1 Cor. 12:28, “God hath set some in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...”

2. The chief corner stone [2:20b].

The corner stone was the strongest stone in the building that had to be precisely laid because it supported and squared the building. It was the standard for the whole building.

Isaiah 28:16, “Therefore says the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tied stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believes shall not make haste.”

Acts 4:11-12 Peter said he was this corner stone they rejected and there is salvation in no other. The church is not built on a social program, busy activity, or material prosperity, but Jesus

3. The building [2:21-22].

Note some phrases here-

v. 21a- *Fitly framed together?* Every part is carefully joined to fit snug, strong, and right where God wants to place it.

1 Peter 2:5, “You as living stones are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

v. 21b- *Holy temple?* The temple will not be complete till all that are saved are in their place. The temple is continually growing.

The church is a place of order and decency. There is a reason the temple was laid out like it was, and there is a reason the church is designed as it is.

v. 21c- *In the Lord?* One must come by the chief corner stone and his teachings.

v. 22b- *Being built together for an habitation of God?*

Dwelling building carries the idea of a permanent home. God makes his earthly sanctuary in the church of all ages, the local church, and the believers body.

We sing the song “Lord make me a living sanctuary,” We are a sanctuary! We should sing, “Thank you for making me a sanctuary.”

v. 22c- *Through the Spirit?* It is the Spirit who draws, imparts life, seals, give gifts, and places the believer where He desires in the temple.