

Right Relationships

Ephesians 2:19-22

September 14, 2025

Opening Illustration

Making Something beautiful out of the imperfect.

Introduction

In this passage this morning, Paul closes His discussion of the marvellous unity of the body of Christ by giving three metaphors to illustrate it. Each of these metaphors paint a picture of the new life that is ours in Christ.

Three Pictures that Show our unity in Christ

1. We who are in Christ are given a new passport.

¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints... Ephesians 2:19a

No matter how distant we were from God before coming to Christ, we have been given citizenship in a new kingdom with all of the privileges and responsibilities.

The word, **xenos**, means foreigner. In every Greek city there were **xenoi** and their life was hard. The foreigner was always looked upon with suspicion and dislike. The word, **parolikos**,

meant a stranger or sojourner. These people were better off than the foreigners. They were resident aliens, but had not become naturalized citizens. They paid tax for the privilege of living in a land which was not their own. Both groups of people were always on the fringe of the local society.

The Amplified Bible gives us a better picture of their plight.

Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints...The Amplified Bible

The Gentiles were like those two groups before they came to faith in Christ. Whether the Gentiles were former outsiders, all believers in Christ become fellow citizens in God's kingdom because there are no second-class citizens.

...do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. ¹ Corinthians 6:9,11

Jesus brings sinners into His kingdom and transforms strangers and foreigners into full citizens with the Saints.

Illustration

Renewing my passport three weeks ago.

2. We who are in Christ are given a new position

...and members of the household of God, Ephesians 19b

Not only are we brought into His kingdom and granted full citizenship, we are also given a new position. In making us members of His household, He is bringing us into His forever family. Because we have come to His Son by faith, The Father sees us and treats us exactly as He sees and treats His Son—with infinite love.

Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. Hebrews 2:11

As family members, we are all brothers and sisters no matter what racial, national, or physical distinctions we may possess. If God, our Father makes no distinctions between us, then we as His children should not make these distinctions here on earth.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28

If we are all members of Christ's family, then how are we to live out our faith? We are to live it out as Christ lived out His faith in the Father; humbly, obediently, righteously, patiently, and lovingly. Each of those qualities are revealed when we are tired, weak, or out of sorts. They are the times when our faith is tested, and we may fail and need to repent. When we do, we discover that our faith is growing and we're becoming more like Christ.

If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.⁹ "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. John 15:9-11

Illustration

Lou and Betty Fielder; (8) Benji and Kathy Williams(13)

3. We who are in Christ are given a new place.

²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

The third picture Paul paints is that of a place, the temple of God. He sees the church as part of a great building being constructed by God throughout the generations. Each new believer becomes a stone in His temple, and the building goes on until He declares that it is finished.

As the apostles and prophets proclaimed and taught God's Word to the people, they laid a foundation for believers to be added to the building.

The key to the building of His temple is the cornerstone. The cornerstone was the major structural part of ancient buildings. It had to be strong enough to support what was built on it, and it had to be precisely laid, because every other part of the structure was oriented to it. Jesus is the cornerstone for His church.

In Jesus, the whole building is being fitted together and growing into a holy temple. The phrase 'fitted together' refers to the careful joining of every component of a piece of furniture, or building. Every part is precisely cut to fit snugly, strongly, and beautifully with every other part. Nothing is out of place,

defective, misshapen, or inappropriate. Because it is Christ's building, the church is perfect, spotless, and without defect or blemish.

Jesus will return to claim His bride who he has made perfect.

²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27

The Holy Spirit continues to build this temple by taking dead stones out of the pit of sin, giving them life, and placing them lovingly into the temple of God.

As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

You and I are those stone being placed in God's beautiful temple and we are being fitly framed together" as the body of Christ. Together, we accomplish the purpose God has in mind for redeeming sinners in our lost world.

Closing Illustration

The stones on this sanctuary fit together perfectly.