

## Together as Christ's Church

Ephesians 2:18-22

- I. **Context:** All believers have equal access to God (Ephesians 2:18).
  - A. We all have access to God through Christ (2:18a).
  - B. We all have access to God by the Spirit (2:18b).
- II. **The Country:** We are fellow-citizens of the same country spiritually (Ephesians 2:19a).
  - We share citizenship in heaven (Philippians 3:20)
  - As "citizens" we have a place where we really **belong**.
- III. **The Family:** We are members of the same family spiritually (Ephesians 2:19b).
  - We have same heavenly Father (2:18; 3:14; John 1:12).
  - As "family" we have people who truly **accept** us.
- IV. **The Temple:** We are a building in which God dwells by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20-22).
  - A. **Leadership:** The Foundation of the Church is the apostles and prophets with Christ the Cornerstone (20).
    - **Christ** established the church by the cross and has continuous total authority (1:22; 1 Corinthians 3:11).
    - **The Apostles and Prophets** (12 + Paul, Barnabas etc.) had Christ's unique authority to start the church.
      1. Directing the early church (Acts 6:1; 15:1-2)
      2. Performing miracles to substantiate the gospel message before the New Testament (2 Corinthians 12:12; Mark 16:20; Acts 14:3; Hebrews 2:3-4)
      3. Directly speaking God's word before the New Testament and then writing it down (Acts 8:25, etc.; 1 Corinthians 7:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:15)
  - B. **Unity:** God chooses to dwell today in us as believers who are joined together by His Spirit (21-22).
    - Do we relate to each other as if we are joined to "one another?"
    - Do we realize our relationships with other believers are how God the Holy Spirit dwells in us corporately?