

Series: Ephesians
Title: Household of God
Text: Ephesians 2: 19-22
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Ephesians 2: 19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but...of the household of God; 20: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21: In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

By the grace and workmanship of God, every saint in heaven and in earth is a member of the family of God—one with God and with one another in Christ.

Ephesians 3: 15: Of whom **the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**

God is our Father and we his children. The Son of God is our everlasting Father—the last Adam (1 Cor 15: 45; 1 Pet 1: 23) Our Elder Brother—“the Firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom 8: 29) Every saint in heaven and earth are brothers and sisters one of another.

Ephesians 2: 14: For [Christ] is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

The church of God—in heaven and in earth—is a family: of the household of God. Christ was faithful, “as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. (Heb 3: 6)

Proposition: We are one with God in Christ! To show how one every saint is with God in Christ, and with one another, the Holy Spirit uses Paul to give us the metaphor of a house, particularly, a temple.

Illustration: Every stone or brick, every material in your house is united to make one house. So is every believer.

The Old Testament temple was made of stones. You and I, along with every other believer in the earth, along with the saints in heaven, make up the temple of God. Paul wrote our text. He and Peter ministered in separate places. Yet, they each spoke by the same Holy Spirit. Therefore, Peter uses the same metaphor. He describes every believer as a living stone which makes up this new temple of God.

1 Peter 2: 5 Ye also, **as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house,...**

The Old Testament Tabernacle and Temple pictured Christ and his true, spiritual temple. His true temple is his household made up of living stones—his redeemed, regenerated saints.

A few weeks ago, we saw how political Israel typified God’s spiritual Israel—made up of his elect called out from among Jew and Gentile—“if ye be Christ’s then are ye Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.” (Gal 3: 28) So plainly true! Last time, we saw that earthly Jerusalem in earthly Mt. Zion is a picture of heavenly Jerusalem in heavenly Zion—Ephesians 2: 19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints”. “Jerusalem which is above is the mother of us all.” This time, we see the Old Testament tabernacle and temple pictures Christ and his spiritual temple, the household of God. Everything in the Old Testament typified Christ and his people.

Divisions: 1) Our new temple has a builder. The whole chapter has been showing us what Christ has done. By Christ—v20: [we are] **built**—v21: **In [Christ] all the building is fitly framed together and growth unto an holy temple in the Lord. v22: In whom ye also are builded together** 2) Our temple has a foundation—v20: **And**

are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
3) Our temple has a use—v22: **[In Christ]** ye also are builded together **for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

I. OUR NEW TEMPLE HAS A BUILDER

The Old Testament Tabernacle

The Old Testament Tabernacle was built, framed up by some builder. Those materials did not put themselves in that building, neither do we put ourselves in this building.

Our text says, v21, “All the building is fitly framed together.” Moses fitly framed together the tabernacle. In Exodus 26, it was made of ten curtains of fine twine linen—each a specific measure—God elected a specific people unto salvation—he chose the exact measure of people who will make up his temple. Five curtains were coupled together and the other five coupled together—we are fitly framed together. Fifty loops were made so that they “may take hold one of another.” Fifty “taches of gold” coupled the curtains together--“and it shall be one tabernacle.”—we make up one temple. Every piece, every board, every socket was all fitly framed together so that it was one tabernacle.

Moses a Type of Christ

Moses was called of God to build that house exactly according to the pattern God gave to him. Moses was faithful. He fitly framed those materials together. But Moses did that to testify of someone greater than Mose. Moses was a type of Christ, the Builder of his true Tabernacle.

Hebrews 3: 1: Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2: Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house. 3: For this *man* [Christ] was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. [Moses was living stone in the house Christ builds. Therefore, Christ is worthy of more honor than Moses.] 4: For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God. 5: And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; [to testify of this gospel I am speaking to you now] 6: But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Brethren, Christ is the Builder and his true tabernacle is his people.

Hebrews 8: 1: Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2: A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Brethren, it will be proven we are of this house if we hold fast in faith unto the end. And we shall if Christ has framed us.

The Old Testament Temple

Solomon built the first stone temple. Those stones did not put themselves in that building. Yet, again, Solomon was a type of Christ. David was Solomon’s father, God said to David,

1 Chronicles 17: 11: And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons;

Solomon was the son of David, the son of God—Christ is the Son of David according to the flesh, the Son of God come from heaven.

1 Chronicles 17: 11: and I will establish his kingdom.

God established Solomon's earthly kingdom—God established Christ's heavenly kingdom, raising him to his throne and giving the GodMan all power in heaven and earth. Christ's kingdom was Solomon's kingdom. So God fulfilled this spiritually to Solomon as well.

1 Chronicles 17: 12: He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

Solomon built an earthly temple. Solomon's throne is established forever because Christ's throne is Solomon's throne. Christ said of every believer—Rev 3:21: To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. But Christ is the builder of God's spiritual temple. Christ's throne is established forever in the heavens.

Jeremiah 23:5: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Zechariah 6: 12: And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

Brethren, our text says by Christ Jesus we are “built”—v21: In [Christ] all the building is fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord. Believer, we are living stones and we make up the temple which God has built and not man.

Illustration: We are given an illustration of how Christ builds up his lively stones, how he fitly frames his people together, by looking at how God commanded Solomon's temple to be built.

1 Kings 6:7: And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

Skilled men dug the stone out of the quarry. They hewed the stone—made it ready. Then they brought it to the building sight. The under-builders were used but by God's direct order they never lifted any of their tools upon those stones.

Christ is the chief Masterbuilder. The Father elected his people and Christ found them all in the quarry of corruption. By his righteousness and his blood he made each child ready—perfecting us by his one offering on the cross. Then Christ brings us to his building, his church, his temple. Christ fitly frames us together using his under-builders but it is Christ who preaches peace to us by his gospel through their mouths.

Therefore, his preachers, and his people, need not—must not—lift one of our earthly tools upon his lively stones for we are God's workmanship—built up by Christ, fitly framed together by Christ. We put our tools to it we pollute it.

II. NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE A BUILDER, OUR TEMPLE HAS A FOUNDATION—v20: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone

Saints are built upon the same foundation as the Apostles and Prophets which is Christ Jesus himself—the chief cornerstone.

Jesus Christ Himself is our Foundation

The APOSTLE Peter preached from the PROPHET Isaiah when he wrote,

1 Peter 2:6: Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7: Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8: And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

- **Christ is the chief cornerstone laid by God the Father**—all the elect of God are established upon Christ our one foundation, according to God's eternal purpose of grace.
- **Christ is the first elect of God**—chosen of God to save his people, to be the firstborn among many brethren. We are chosen of God in him.
- **Christ is precious to God**—he is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, he declares the glory of God, it pleased God for his Son to have all preeminence and it pleases us, too.

The Church's One Foundation
Is Jesus Christ Her Lord
She is his new creation
By water and the word
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

- **He that believeth on him shall not be confounded**—Through the gospel, the incorruptible Seed, we are born of Christ's Spirit: made one with God, made one with Christ, made one with one another. Like a corner stone, Christ holds the whole house together. We are not ashamed **to** confess him and not ashamed **for** confessing him.
- **Unto you therefore which believe he is precious**—you who are established on our one foundation are not ashamed. Christ is precious to you. His blood is precious. We sing with joy:

On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand

The Apostles and Prophets

Therefore, we cannot separate the foundation of the apostle and prophets from Christ himself. The foundation on which they themselves were built was Christ—and, the foundation they laid by preaching, was Christ Jesus. The prophets were saved the same way we are and they preached Christ.

1 Peter 1:10: Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Luke 24:44: And [Christ] said...all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me—The entire Old Testament is concerning the Lord Jesus Christ—everything!

Speaking of Genesis to Malachi, Christ said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (Jn 5: 39) Stop looking for life, for earthly things, for earthy kingdoms in the scriptures. Look for Christ!

Of the apostles—the apostle Paul said,

1 Corinthians 3: 9:…we are labourers together with God:…ye are God’s building. 10: According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The apostles only had the Old Testament written by the prophets. So they preached the foundation of the prophets which was Christ. Paul said,

Acts 26: 22: Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: 23: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

As the prophets and the apostles preached Christ, Christ himself called out his elect, fitly framing his living stones together through the Holy Spirit. That is why we read,

Revelations 21:14: And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Illustration: Again, we are shown how Christ does this by looking at what God said when the second temple was being built,

Zechariah 4: 6: Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. 7: Who *art* thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel *thou shalt become* a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone *thereof with* shoutings, *crying*, Grace, grace unto it.

Christ builds his living stones upon him, not by a sinner’s might or power, but through the gospel, by his Holy Spirit. He makes every proud, stout-hearted mountain a flat plain. The same way he brought the first living stone, he shall bring the very last stone, crying, Grace, grace unto it! And By Christ our Life we grow into an holy temple! You ever heard of a building growing—we are alive, living stones.

Another illustration: Ezekiel 40-48 is mysterious to men. Jews can’t study it till they are 30 years of age. There, a glorious Man appeared to Ezekiel, with feet like brass (just like John saw Christ to have in Revelation.) He showed Ezekiel a city but the whole city was a temple. For 8 chapters, that glorious Man goes about carefully measuring every inch of that temple. I thought of Ephesians 4: 13, Christ sends forth his preachers,

Ephesians 4: 13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:…15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 2: 20: [We] are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21: In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

III. THRIDLY, OUR TEMPLE HAS A SPECIFIC PURPOSE—V21: [We are] an holy temple in the Lord: 22: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

A Habitation of God

When you read Ezekiel 40-48, Ezekiel says he saw a city. Then he describes the entire city as a temple. When John was shown heavenly Jerusalem he said,

Revelation 21:22: And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

Here we read, Christ's church, every living stone, is the holy temple in the Lord and God inhabits us, his temple, through the Spirit. So put those scriptures together and we see that God in Christ in his people is the city and the entire city is the temple that our God is and that we are being one with our God in Christ.

So brethren, the first purpose of Christ making us his temple is that we might be inseparably, indescribly one—with God in Christ—"your life is hid with Christ in God." (Col 3: 2)

John 17: 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Ephesians 1: 10: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

A Holy, Royal Priesthood

We see another purpose for us being his temple. That Old Testament temple had a priesthood. The Holy Spirit says of every saint, we are a holy priesthood.

1 Peter 2: 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood...

He says in v9 "a royal priesthood"—king-priests.

Revelation 5: 9: And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10: And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Brethren, the purpose of us being his temple is first, that we might be one with God in Christ—a habitation of God through the Spirit and secondly, that we might be God's holy, royal priesthood.

To Offer Up Spiritual Sacrifices in Christ

Thirdly, in the old testament temple, sacrifices were offered continually. Peter says now that we are his temple, a royal priesthood, our purpose is to offer up a different kind of sacrifice.

1 Peter 2: 5:...to offer up spiritual sacrifices,

Not the blood of bulls and goats--

Hoshea 14:2: Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

1 Peter 2:9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psalm 69:30: I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. 31: This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.

Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

But brethren, how can holy God receive such spiritual sacrifices, and be delighted with them, when they come from such sinners like us? In the old testament temple, the sacrifices were accepted upon an altar.

Hebrews 13: 10: We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle....15: By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Therefore, Peter says of our spiritual sacrifices, they are

1 Peter 2: 5:...acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Brethren, do not look back to the old: not to old Israel, not to old city, not to the old temple, old priesthood, old sacrifices or old altar. Do not diminish the glory of Christ Jesus by looking for the old to be built again when Christ returns. Believer, we are the Israel of God, the city of God, the household of God. Jesus Christ himself is the chief corner stone, we are an holy temple in the Lord. God dwells in us and we in God through the Spirit. Look forward to God our Savior himself!

Amen!