



WE ARE A KINGDOM FAMILY

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Text: Ephesians 2:19-22

1. Introduction: From previous weeks

From exclusion to embrace

Overcome exclusion – We are one in Christ, both Jews and Gentiles.

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—

¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

2. Kingdom Family - United into one Culture

We are a united multicultural family of God. We now have a collective identity, an eternal identity in Christ.

Ephesians 2:19 – 22

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

strangers - a person in a new or unfamiliar place and does not know his/her way around

aliens - belonging or relating to another person, place, or thing: *STRANGE* or relating, belonging, or owing allegiance to another country or government

fellow citizens - an inhabitant of a city or town especially: one entitled to the rights and privileges of a freeman (opposite of slaves) (wide circle)

members of the household - all the people in a family or group who live together in one house (smaller circle)

structure - brickwork in a building

Smallest Circle - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

Paul uses the example to show the dynamics to explain our acceptance through Christ and progression from being:

- Far off to
- Citizens to
- Family to
- Temple of the Holy Spirit

The opposite is true if we think about the great commission:

- Allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and change us so that we
- Become the change agent in our family and also the family of God so that
- The greater family can impact cities and nations

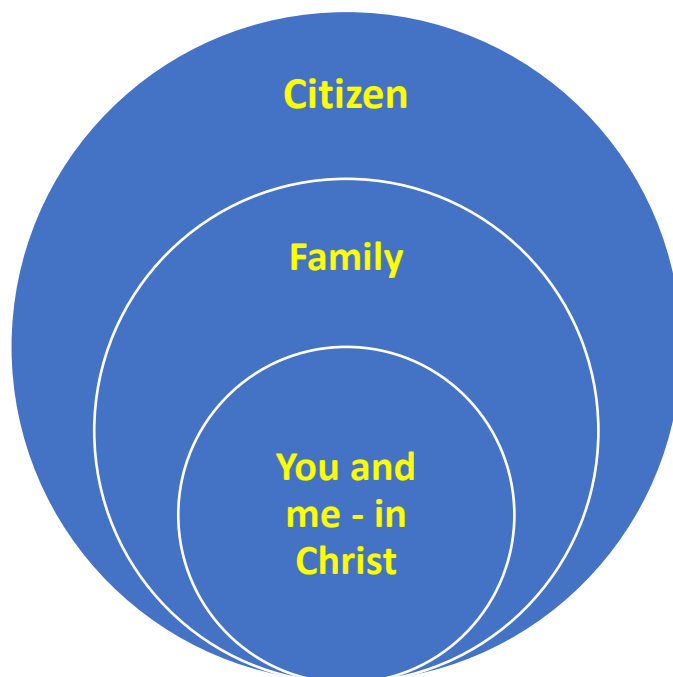
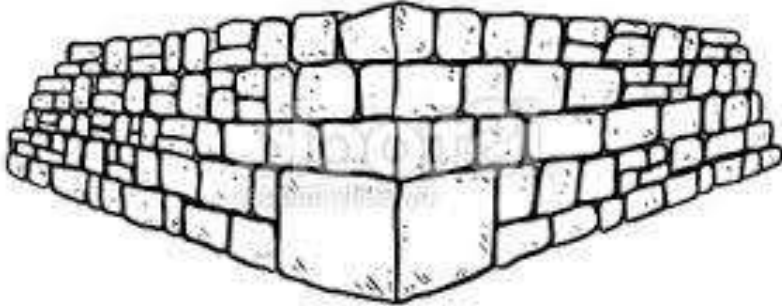


Illustration of a building in progress:



Building provides Shelter and Security, but we must be taken in and the Holy Spirit must be the re-enforcing which will help the building to stand in storms.

Verse 20 - In this building Christ is the Cornerstone



The cornerstone (or foundation stone or setting stone) is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. All other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

Over time a cornerstone became a ceremonial masonry stone, or replica, set in a prominent location on the outside of a building, with an inscription on the stone indicating the construction dates of the building and the names of architect, builder, and other significant individuals. The rite of laying a cornerstone is an important cultural component of eastern architecture and metaphorically in sacred architecture generally.



Problem: In families and churches Christ has become a ceremonial masonry stone. I see a name plate behind a curtain somewhere in an entrance, closed or hidden most of the time but referred to when importance or significance of building is explained.

Churches – Governments – families (Christian vs Christlike)

3. **Let's** pause and consider what it means to be family

In a family you receive an identity, a sense of belonging, security - relational, trust, confidence, vulnerability, transparency, reliability

Structure: Father and son (Mother and daughter, Parents and children) – Originator (Source), Provider, Coach (Correction), Love (Unconditionally), Authority (Cover)

F-A-T-H-E-R: "The Six Attributes of a Godly Father"

(We see these in our heavenly Father too.)

The "F" in father stands for Faithful — Good fathers are faithful.

The "A" in father stands for Action — Good fathers are people of action.

The "T" in father stands for Teacher — Good fathers are teachers.

The "H" in father stands for Hope — Good fathers offer hope to their families.

The "E" in father stands for Example — Good fathers are a positive example.

Finally, the "R" in father stands for Reliable — Good fathers are reliable.

Abraham – Father of many nations - Genesis 18:19 *For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.*

2 Corinthians 6:18: Father - *And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.*

Galatians 4:6–7 Son – *And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God*

Ephesians 2: 8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Do we believe it? We need to accept our new identity in Christ.

It's a mind game!

Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

We all struggle to define "Who am I?"

Defined by gene pool (mother or father)

From eternity to eternity 2 Timothy 1:9 – *He who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

God has already signed off our blueprint to salvation before time began.

4. Let us settle in our minds once and for all

Through Christ, we have been saved by grace and our identity is defined in Him from before time began.

When children of an earthly father make mistakes, hurt and disappoint, their status is not defined in what they have done but by their origin. They remain children of a loving father.

This applies to us as well. We are defined by who we are in Christ and not by the label, the badge, **the moods, the victories or defeats we have by "doing life."**

An old tactic of the enemy – he wants us to doubt who we are or what we believe.

Remember what he said to Eve - **"Is that really so..."** or what he said to Jesus in **Matt 4 where he said "If you are the son of God..."**

This battle is mostly a battle of the mind. The only way that we can flight this battle in our minds is to counter doubt and accusations by confirming who we are (our identity) in Christ

I am who He says I am

I am saved by Grace

I am fearfully and wonderfully made

I can do all in Christ who strengthens me

I am the head and not the tail

I am a new creation

I am no longer a slave

I am part of the household of Christ

I am a temple of the Holy Spirit

Discussion questions:

1. Is your earthly (temporary) identity more important than our eternal identity?
2. Have you received salvation through Christ and accepted the adoption into the Kingdom family?
3. How will you intentionally allow the Holy Spirit to constantly renew your mind?