

TITLE AND NUMBER: 194. Members of His household



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

LOOKING FURTHER: Ephesians 2:11-18; Psalm 84

What does this Bible passage tell us?

What a fantastic chapter of the Bible this is!! At the beginning, Paul talks about our former selves – how we all come from a place of sin and separation from God. Then, we read that we can have an encounter with the grace of God and can be 'brought near by the blood of Christ' (Ephesians 2:13). It is God's plan and His desire that we should have another chance, a new life.

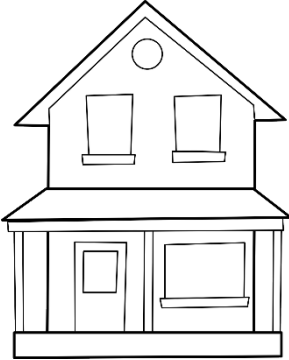
Then comes the word 'consequently', which means 'because of all that'! All that planning, all that grace, all that sacrifice, all that effort of reconciliation, which makes us into people who belong. It talks of us being like bricks, all carefully laid in the right place, in the right direction, with Christ as the cornerstone. Can you imagine that all the wonderful heroes in the Bible have a place in those walls? All the incredible men and women of faith that have lived on this earth for all time since - all the people we look up to like Charles Spurgeon, Billy Graham, Hudson Taylor, Corrie Ten Boom and Amy Carmichael are built into that hand-crafted building.

Praise God, **we** each have a place in those walls too, as we take our place in the line of generations of believers in Christ. We may not feel like we have a right to be there, but God Himself has given us the right. In Christ 'you too are being built together' (Ephesians 2:22) to become a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Isn't that amazing! Why would God do this? It is for no better reason than He loves us and wants us to belong. He wants us to be 'members of His household' (Ephesians 2:19). So, if the 'enemy of souls' is making you feel that you don't belong, use this verse to declare that God has made a space for you and you are holding fast to your place in what He is building.

Reflections:

- Let's praise God today that from the moment we accept Christ as Saviour we do not stand on our own, but we belong in God's house.
- Look in your library or in your chaplaincy for books that inspire your faith. Reading about people like the ones mentioned above can be a great encouragement.
- It is good to remind ourselves that what God has done for other people He can do for us, too. Whatever our greatest need is we can ask Him to help us, because we are 'members of His household' (Ephesians 2:19).

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

