



November 15, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Becoming the Household of God Ephesians 2:19-22

Experience Personal Life Change through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:11-18

"But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (v.13)

- **He will tear down those walls.** (v. 14-15)
"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity... establishing peace."
- **He will change our minds and hearts to unite with each other.** (v. 16-17)
"and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity, and He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near."

In what ways do you see and experience the benefits of knowing Jesus Christ and His church?

Therefore, We Become the Household of God. Ephesians 2:19-22

- **A household where no one is a stranger. We learn to view others as fellow saints in Christ.** (v. 19)
"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household."
- **A household where the Bible and the character of Christ direct our lives.** (v. 20)
"having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone."

John 4:7-9; Luke 19:5-7; Luke 22:61-62; Matthew 8:1-3 (see Digging Deeper on back)
- **A household where you fit in and connect with others to grow your faith.** (v. 21)
"in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord."
- **A household where the Spirit of God indwells and empowers us to do great things for God.** (v. 22)
"in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

Digging Deeper:

In today's passage, Paul reveals how members of the church should relate to each other. He uses powerful images calling us "God's household," "a whole building fitted together," "a holy temple," "a dwelling of God." That kind of identity should impact how we live our lives and how our community views us.

LifeGroup Discussion:

When Jesus Christ is our cornerstone, (Ephesians 2:20) that means He upholds and directs how we live our lives. Below are four kinds of people that Jesus encountered and He reveals how we should relate to them.

1. How would you typically respond to each person below?
2. How did Jesus respond to them?
3. Which of these people would you find the easiest to love? Which are the most difficult? Why?
4. Do you know people in these four challenging areas of life? How should you relate to them as Jesus did?
5. What problems do you think you will experience in living like Jesus and reaching out to these people in love?

Woman at the well – sinners, which some believe are worthy of judgment and rejection. John 4:7-9

"There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give Me a drink.' For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, 'How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)"

Zacchaeus – the upper 1% who have it all, take our money and control our lives in ways we object. Luke 19:5-7

"When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.' And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, 'He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.'"

Peter – friends who betray or wound us. Luke 22:61-62, just before the crucifixion

"The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, 'Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly."

John 21:15-17, after the resurrection.

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

Lepers – people who are outcasts to us and we avoid and ignore because of their life situation. Matthew 8:1-3

"When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, 'Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.' Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

Next Steps:

1. **Join a LifeGroup to find support to live out your Christian faith.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Learn more about baptisms at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. **Discover how to live and love like Jesus through the "Following Jesus" course on Wednesdays through January 20 at 7:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby.** Come grow in your faith by journeying through the foundational elements of discipleship. If you're a new follower of Jesus, or want to become more grounded in the basics of Christianity, this is perfect for you! calvarylife.org/lifegroups