

RENEWED

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

“ONE PEOPLE, UNITED IN CHRIST”

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Tom continued our study of Ephesians, “Renewed,” with the focus on “One People, United in Christ. God’s work of salvation is not just saving individuals but bringing all those individuals from the whole range of diverse backgrounds into One Church. This is likened to a building or Temple, one of several analogies to describe the church.

Building a skyscraper is messy and takes a long time, but over time, it steadily rises to fill the city skyline with beauty and wonder. We who are “in Christ” are God’s people, whom God is building as a Temple where He dwells among us. Just like a literal building project, the process may seem slow, can be messy and delayed, but God is faithful in building His Church as He said to his disciples, “I will build my Church, and the Gates of Hades (death) shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

God promises that it will happen, even making former enemies, Jews and Gentiles, into one new community made of new people who become the new temple of God. How is this possible? The answer is stated in verses 14, 15, “For He (Christ) is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility... that He might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace.”

Anyone who has lived longer than a minute understands that this is an incredible task. Humans, in their sin, are divisive creatures eager to set up barriers, not tear them down. But Christ, renewing the heart of the individual, renews the community, making us one in Him—no longer Jew nor Greek. This was revolutionary in its day, and if we are honest, is no less astonishing to consider now.

It is important to note that the invitation to inclusion is for everyone, but only true for those who are “in Christ.” Those who reject Him remain excluded from the joy of being one and are left to our own divisions, separated from God and from each other.

With these truths revealed to us, we must lay down our superficial barriers and throw ourselves into the joy of the Lord, toiling in the power of the Holy Spirit and fueled by grace, to become one people whom God delights to dwell in. In that way, the kingdom of God on earth grows into a Holy Temple in which God dwells, and in anticipation of the completed church, made up of believers from every people group all over the world.

Together, let’s unpack this text and apply it to our lives.

DISCUSSION

Expand Our Awareness

- In every age, unity seems impossible. What is it practically that makes unity so hard?
- Where do we see that play out the most in our culture today?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Ephesians 2:11-22

- What jumps out to you from the text?
- Why would this passage have been revolutionary in its day?

Pastor Tom outlined three implications from this text:

- We are a new community.
- We have citizenship in God's Kingdom
- We are the new Temple where God dwells.
- Based on the text, what do you think it means to be a "new community?" What does it practically mean to live that out?
- Based on the text, what do you think it means to be "citizens in God's kingdom", and what does it practically mean to live that out?
- Based on the text, what do you think it means to be the "new temple where God dwells", and what does it practically mean to live that out?
- Why is the Gospel the only thing able to tear down the dividing walls of hostility in today's culture?

Experience Transformation

- Which of these three implications convinced you the most, and why?
- Fueled by Grace, how could Faith Church grow better at modeling that in a world falling apart?
- What is God prompting us to do to help Faith grow that way?

Pray

PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:

Ephesians 3:1-6