Dwelling Place For God

11-15-26

Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)
In HIM, Jesus, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

God in the book of Ephesians explains to us HIS purpose through the entity of the church. We need to understand what the church is. Granted individual members make up the church. But the Apostle Paul addresses many of his letters to the entity of the church, such as to the church at Corinth, to the churches at Galatia, or to the church that meets in your house. After Jesus' resurrection, God basically looks at three groups of people: Jews, Gentiles, and the church. The Jewish people are HIS chosen people with all the promises of God, and from which comes the lineage of Christ. All the first believers were from Jewish linage. Then we have all other people, the Gentiles who are identified as those without God with no hope. But now, Jews and Gentiles, through faith in Jesus Christ who fulfills all the promises of God are saved, made alive by Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. Therefore, we are now a chosen race, a holy nation, the church, a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Summary:
Ephesians 2:13 (ESV)
But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Through Jesus, God made "one new man" out of two, Jews and Gentiles. Those who trust Jesus as their Savior become members of God's church.
Ephesians 2:14–16 (ESV)
Jesus HIMSELF is our peace, who has made us both one … that he might create in himself "one new man" in place of the two, making peace, reconciling us both to God in one body through the cross.

Now having our sins forgiven we have peace with God and have total access to God.
Ephesians 2:18 (ESV)
For through Jesus we both have "access" in one Spirit to the Father.

As believers, as the church, we have a whole new relationship with God and each other as stated in Eph.2:19-21: No longer strangers and aliens, but we are fellow citizens, members of the household of God, the church.

With Jesus the cornerstone, the whole church structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. Always remember that Jesus is the cornerstone of the church.
John 14:6 (ESV)
Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through ME."

Through Jesus the cornerstone we have access to the throne of God. With access to the throne of God, we receive favor and power finding help in our time of need.
Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Brothers and sisters, there is power in the church.
1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)
Do you not know that you (plural) are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

The plural "you" refers to the collective church. The AMP identifies the collective "you" and clearly states the standing of the church.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (AMP)
Do you not discern *and* understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, collectively as a church and also individually]?

The church is God's witness to the world. The next verse continues, "We as believers and the church as an entity are covered by God's protective Hand."
1 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)
If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Come, let us worship together. We are God's workmanship, HIS work of art, and HE protects HIS work of art, the church.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)
8 For by grace (favor and power) we have been saved through faith. And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.