Ephesians

The Church and Her Members

EPHESIANS 2:8-22

Week of October 25, 2026

SETTING THE SCENE

The city of Ephesus was a pagan metropolis in which the Apostle Paul had previously evangelized and planted the gospel. Now he writes to remind the church who they are, fellow "members of the household of God" (v.19) with believing Jews as well. True multicultural unity is only possible with the grace of Jesus as the foundation, and it's beautiful to behold.

SCRIPTURE

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. 10
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
for good works, which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.

11 Therefore 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— 12 remember 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. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who
once were far off have been brought near by the
blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who
has made us both one and has broken down in his
flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing
the law of commandments expressed in ordinances,
that he might create in himself one new man in place
of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile
us both to God in one body through the cross,
thereby killing the hostility.

17 And he came and preached peace to you who
were far off and peace to those who were near. 18
For through him we both have access in one Spirit
to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers
and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints

CORE TRUTH

The church is made up of God's redeemed people, all of them. Together we are God's poem, his artwork, demonstrating his reconciling grace to the world.

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.

HEAD

to help us examine what the word shows and *let in* what's true.

- Share one word from the passage that you believe sums up the main point and explain why.
- Verses 8-10 are the foundation for the argument of verses 11-22. Why do you think this is?

HEART

to help us wrestle with what we believe and *be with* each other in it.

- Workmanship (v.10) means poem or artwork. What is poetic about what God has done or is doing in your life?
- How does God's grace help you connect to people who are different than you? Share an example.
- How does the vision of a reconciled and unified church shape your vision for your life?

HANDS

to help us bring the truth into our lives and *go out* into the world with the Holy Spirit.

- What good works may God be calling you to demonstrate his grace to the world? Spend some time praying for each other about these things.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group.
- **Listen:** We value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after someone shares gives them a true chance to finish. A Pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** Allowing silence in the group provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, gather their thoughts in order to share, and genuinely consider what others have shared.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Curious:** By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use "I" Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

If you need childcare reimbursement please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. You must submit within 30 days of attending group.