



**Title:** Joined Together (Ephesians series)

**Text:** Ephesians 2:19-22

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**Date:** 12.18.11

## **Ephesians 2:19-22**

*19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints 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.*

### **The Bible speaks in stark realities about those who are in and those who are out.**

- We don't naturally think of it that way.

### **Notice the intensifying intimacy of the metaphors**

1. Citizenship of a Kingdom
2. Members of a family
3. One holy temple

### **Three Truths:**

#### **1. The Gospel is bigger than individual salvation.**

- Individual salvation is incredibly important, but there it doesn't stop there.

#### **2. We are made for biblical community as members of a local church.**

- Is church membership in the Bible?
  - The phrase? No. The concept? Yes.
  - Discipline (1 Cor 5, 2 Cor 2)
  - Leaders (Heb 13:17)
  - Care for one another (1 Thess 5:12-14)

#### **3. The church exists to be a dwelling place for God.**

- A sneak preview and earthly outpost of heaven.
- We could say many other things about the church and its priorities and mission and responsibilities.
- But, at the most fundamental level, the purpose of the church is to be the dwelling place of God.

### **"One Another" Covenant**

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now, in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, resolve to live by faith, and so establish this covenant with one another.

In all we do, we will aim to glorify and enjoy the God of our salvation, from whom and through whom and to whom are all things: to Him be all glory forever! (1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36)

We will eagerly maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by walking together in love and in the Spirit and by putting away all bitterness, anger, and injurious speech. (Eph. 4:3; Gal. 5:16, 25; Eph. 4:29, 31)

We will be devoted to one another in brotherly love, with humility and gentleness we will patiently bear with each other, forgiving, encouraging and building one another up, exercising watchfulness over each other and

admonishing one another when necessary. (Luke 17:3; Col. 3:13; 1 Thes. 5:11; 1 Pet. 1:22)

We will carry each other's burdens, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15)

We will train our children in the instruction of the Lord, seeking to walk in a way that adorns the gospel of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors. (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; 1 Pet. 3:1)

We will seek, by God's help, to live carefully in this world, denying ungodliness and worldly passions. We will strive to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:14)

We will not neglect to gather together, but will support and treasure the biblical preaching of the whole counsel of God, the faithful observance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the loving exercise of church discipline. (Heb. 10:25; 2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:13)

We will contribute cheerfully, generously and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel both to our neighbors and the nations. (Matt. 28:19; Luke 12:33; 2 Cor. 9:7)

We will, when we move from this place, unite as soon as possible with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

In all these things, we rely on our God who has made a new and everlasting covenant with us, saying:

"They shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. . . . I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good . . . with all my heart and all my soul." (Jer. 32:38-41)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, amen. (2 Cor. 13:14).