

G R O W T H N O T E S

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:11-22

SERMON TEACHING SERIES:

“From Potencial-2-Purpose” – Parts 9 & 10

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

**“IN CHRIST—THROUGH CHRIST--&
BECAUSE OF CHRIST—I AM
ESSENTIAL”**

(I AM NEEDED)

Ephesians 2:11-22 (New Living Translation/NLT): 11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.

12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.

16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near.

18 Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

A Temple for the Lord

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

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MESSAGE BACKGROUND

Like Paul, we should recognize our past failures, mistakes, or sins that would naturally disqualify us from God's favor. Hold onto a sober, humble view of yourself apart from Christ - but don't let shame stop you. Then, embrace your new identity by grace. Your value and identity come entirely from God's grace and not your own merit. You are not defined by your worst mistake or your greatest achievement, but by the fact that "by the grace of God I am what I am." Let that motivate you to work hard in serving God and others.

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POTENTIAL – 2 – PURPOSE AFFIRMATION:

- "I am what God says I am;

- I have what God says I have;

- I can do what God says I can do—

God says, “I Am Blessed,”

“I Am Chosen”

I Am Enough

I Am A Part Of God’s Plan

I Am God’s Workmanship

God’s Masterpiece

I Am Essential & Needed

“God has POTENTIAL in my life

PURPOSE on my life

AND—I'm Moving From Potential-2-Purpose!"

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KEY VERSES: Ephesians 2:19-22 “19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.”

- ***Illustration of Diversity—Equity—& Inclusion—DEI—and God’s Divine Diversity—Equity—& Inclusion!***
- There are a lot of people who want to be included—but find themselves excluded for different reasons.
- But—there is good news today—for everybody who has ever felt excluded—that when people count you out—God counts you back in.
- Paul taught the newly included believers in Ephesus—that God has opened the door, broken down the walls, overturned the tables and invited them—and us in. Because God—in Christ has taken us in—we are fellow citizens with the saints.
- That means we have changed our citizenship—we are members of a new

Kingdom—we are no longer strangers and foreigners—we are in the family—and we have come home. We’ve been saved by grace, brought into a new Kingdom, with a new national anthem—“Amazing Grace...!” We march under a new flag—the bloodstained banner of Calvary—because we are citizens of God’s Kingdom;

- *As We Move From POTENTIAL—2—PURPOSE—Our Divine Design—AND—PURPOSE—means—Embracing & Understanding—You’re ESSENTIAL—AND—NEEDED—in the family of God!*

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***THREE IMPORTANT METAPHORS
THAT SOLIDIFY OUR POTENTIAL &
PURPOSE IN—THROUGH—&
BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST***

1. The metaphor of “BELONGING”—no longer outsiders—but now made insiders through Christ. Ephesians 2:19

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2. The metaphor of “BIRTH,”—we are God’s children, members of God’s family. Ephesians 2:19

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3. The metaphor of God’s “BUILDING,”—we are the specially chosen ‘stones’—Jesus Christ, Chief Cornerstone. Eph. 2:20-21

<i>C O N C L U S I O N</i>

- **God is the builder, Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone, and we are the stones that make up the building.**
- **The message is one of salvation, one security & one success.**
- **God sealed it with the miracle of redemption by saving us.**
- **In—Through—& Because Of Jesus Christ—We've Become *SUPERNATURALIZED*—Included & Filled With Potential & Purpose.**

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