

I) V19-22 INTRO: Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow

II) We concluded with Paul stating that Jew and Gentile have access to God by Jesus (V18)

The word that is translated access is used three times in the NT

III) It is a Greek word that speaks of a believer's entrance into God's presence

It is used here, and again in Ch 3:12, and in Romans 5:1-2

Ro 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified *through faith*, we have peace with God through our Lord *Jesus Christ, through whom* we have gained *access by faith* into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Eph 3:12 in Whom (Jesus) we have boldness and access with confidence *through faith* in Him

IV) Allow me to develop this a bit further as I lay a foundation for our study

V) FIRST: The NT message declares that Jesus is humanity's mediator

This is something that Jesus said of Himself, as well as other writers

Jn 14:6 I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me

Ac 4:12 Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is *no other name* under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

1 Ti 2:5 There is one God, and *one mediator* between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

VI) This is what Paul is saying when He says Through Him we both have access (V18)

VII) SECOND: This access to the Father is for both Jew and Gentile, through *the Spirit*

The Spirit makes Jew and Gentile the *one new man*, thus establishing Unity (V14)

1 Co. 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

VIII)) THIRD: By one Spirit both Jew and Gentile can now have access to the Father

IX) ACCESS: Originally referred to a court official who introduced people to a King

The term carries with it the idea, not of possessing access in our own right but of *being granted the right* to come to God with confidence, knowing we will

be welcomed by Him

Heb 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

X) This is why we proclaim the message of the gospel

I) It is the message that God has given to man to make it possible to know Him

This is why we should be careful and accurate as we share this message with others

II) As I was preparing this study, I came across a letter I received from a radio listener

III) Dear Pastor Rosales: I wanted to write to let you know the great influence your radio program has done for me and my family. I live in Utah and was raised Mormon, but I did not attend regularly. About a year ago I felt that God was telling me that I needed Jesus in my life, so like a good Mormon I started going to church more. But that did not satisfy me and I started to realize that they were not teaching about Jesus very much. To make a long story short, I started listening to your radio program almost a year ago...on my way to work. Now I, my husband and my two children regularly attend Calvary Chapel in Salt Lake City and I am getting baptized. I have invited my entire family and close friends (all of whom are Mormon) to the baptism and I would very much appreciate it if you would pray for them to come to the service and accept Jesus into their lives. Thank you so much for your ministry. I pray for you often and hope that you can touch more lives like you touched mine. God Bless.

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IV) This is why preaching the gospel is so very important

It is the only message that completely transforms lives

1 Co 1:17-18 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

V) V19 Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the

VI) Paul reminds the Ephesians that they are no longer strangers and foreigners

Strangers: Resident aliens, settling in a country as short-term residents; guests

Foreigners: Dweller near but not in the country; Dwellers just outside the house of God

VII) Both of these terms denote an inferior relationship

A short-term resident living near a country is not the same as a citizen of the country

VIII) Paul is simply saying: This is no longer true concerning the Ephesians

They are members of the Kingdom of God and fellow Citizens of Heaven with the saints

They were at one time far off, but now they are near (V13)

IX) They were once aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the promises

Now, they are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household

They are fellow citizens with the saints, including past, present, and those still future

I) This would include saints like Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Elijah, and the Apostles

It would include people who are believers today, and people who are still yet to believe

II) When Gentiles began to attend church meetings, they could have felt awkward

At that time the church was mainly Jewish, and they could have been uncomfortable

III) Religious and national culture can sometimes create barriers between believers

This was true in the early church

Ac 6:1-2 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution

IV) This still occurs: Some people feel uncomfortable around people of different color

SADLY: Some churches actually cater to these differences in order to attract members

V) Years ago, I was interviewed by a representative of a national Christian magazine

As I was being interviewed, I was asked about our demographic I mentioned that we had a large per centage of Hispanics

VI) The next question was interesting: Do you have *special Music* to attract Latinos?

I said no, what we have is a gospel message that reaches all people
There is no white church, brown church, black church, yellow church or red church

VII) There is one church

Ac 2:17 In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit *on all people*. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Ro 3:22 And this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ *to all who believe*. There is no distinction

VIII) The Gentiles could have felt like visitors to the church instead of family

This is what Paul is pointing out: The Jews and the Gentiles are now one in Jesus

They are not simply God-fearers but are full participants in the Body of Christ

IX) Gentiles were religiously unclean and kosher Jews had no fellowship with them

X) This kind of attitude was still present in the early church and had to be addressed

Gal 2:11-13 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray

I) Paul was making it clear that they are fully fellow citizens of heaven

Ro 10:12 For *there is no distinction between Jew and Greek*; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him

II) SECOND: We are presently members of the *household of God*, being His children

Jn 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become *children of God*, to those who believe in His name

Ro 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are *God's children*

III) When we came to Jesus, we were adopted by God and are His children

Ro 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your *adoption to sonship*. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

IV) Under Roman law, adoption was a very important legal procedure

The person who had been adopted had all the rights of a legitimate son in his new family and *completely lost all rights* in his old family. In the eyes of the Law, he was *a new person*. He was so *new* that even all debts and obligations connected with his previous family were abolished, as if they had never existed. (Adults were normally adopted, not children)

We are God's children, through faith in Christ and are members of His household

V) V19 We are fellow citizen with the saints and members of the household of God

Every kingdom citizen is a family member, and every family member is a kingdom citizen

As His children, God views us as full members of His family

VI) V20 Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets Jesus Christ

VII) THIRD: We are built on the *foundation of the apostles* and the *prophets*

Mt 16:18 (Jesus said) I also say to you that you are Peter, *and on this rock*, I will build My church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it

VIII) When Jesus said this, He was not saying that Peter was *the Rock* the church is built upon

Peter himself made that very clear

1 Pt 2:4-7 As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.' So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'

I) The rock Jesus was referring to wasn't Peter, but his confession of faith in Jesus

The church has been built on the *foundation* of the apostles and prophets

This would be speaking of the doctrine of the apostles and prophets

contained in the NT

II) The church has not been built on imperfect man, but upon Jesus and His message

III) The foundation is Jesus Christ and His Message of the gospel

This is the message that was preached by His apostles and prophets
1 Co 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid *the foundation*, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no *other foundation* can anyone lay than that which is laid which is Jesus Christ

IV) The apostles and prophets laid the foundation that the church stands on

V) Pastors as well as bible teachers are to remain faithful to what they received

They are to teach it and not modify it
Dt 12:32 Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it

VI) Jesus is the chief cornerstone and the word the foundation so it must be taught right

Those who handle the word must be faithful
Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the faithful word as it was taught, so that he can encourage others by sound teaching and refute those who contradict it.
2 Th. 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold *the traditions* which you have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

VII) V20 Paul writes that Jesus Christ Himself is the chief cornerstone

This is the stone that aligns the building and holds it together

VIII) Jesus as the chief cornerstone was rejected by the people

Ps 118:22 *The stone* which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

Is 28:16 So this is what the Lord GOD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will never be shaken.

IX) As Messiah, Jesus applied this prophecy to Himself

Mt 21:42-44 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind

him to powder.

I) The cornerstone was the chief stone in the building
It needed to be strong enough to support what was built upon it, and it aligned the rest of the building as well as uniting the building into one structure

II) This is what Jesus is to the church, supporting, aligning, and uniting the church

1 Co 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be *perfectly united in mind and thought*

Phil 2:2 Complete my joy by being of *the same mind*, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

III) V21 In whom the whole building being *joined* together grows into a holy temple in the

The church has been carefully fitted together; each part carefully crafted to fit perfectly

Since the building isn't completed, each new stone is set in place until it is completed

IV) In Spain there is a minor basilica in Barcelona, La Sagrada Familia
It has been under construction since 1882 and is still unfinished
This is the way of the church of Jesus, in a state of continual construction

V) V21 We are growing into a *holy temple* in the Lord
We are God's sanctuary, the dwelling place of His Spirit

VI) God's earthly sanctuary, on earth, is the church
It is not a small, man-made sanctuary, but is immense because it is worldwide

1 Co 6:19-20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body and your spirit which are God's

VII) V22 In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit

VIII) The apostles and prophets were used to lay the foundation
It is Jesus who holds the Temple together

IX) The Jews were among the earliest stones

The Gentiles and Jews now make up the new community, the fellowship of the redeemed: this fellowship transcends race, gender, status and every other barrier

X) If this is the case, let us live in such a way that people will know that we are His Te