

5/22/22

## The Believer's Exalted Position

### Eph. 2:19-22

Paul has presented the Jew and Gentiles as one "in Christ", Christians, comprising the church and body of Jesus Christ, wealthy by the love of God.

Paul now described by three metaphors the new relationship of the Gentile to God through the new oneness of Jew and Gentile, the church of Jesus Christ. Eph. 2:19-22

- I. Fellow citizens of God's Kingdom. vs. 19a-d
- II. Family members of God's household. vs. 19d-20
- III. Fitted stones for God's house. vs. 21-22

#### **I. Fellow citizens of God's Kingdom. vs. 19a-c**

A. The apostle Paul declared the Gentiles were no longer outside of the Kingdom of God.

\* "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners." vs. 19a-c

- 1. Paul is summing up his logical argument based on what he has stated about the atoning work of Jesus in the preceding verses about the Gentiles.
  - a. The word now "oun", means accordingly, consequently or these things being so.

- b. The word therefore "ara" indicates the conclusion of the spiritual position of the Gentiles.
- c. The evidence is undeniable and irrefutable. Eph. 2:14-18
  - 1) In view of the fact that Jesus is our peace and has made both Jew and Gentile one having broken down the middle wall of separation. vs. 14
  - 2) In view of the fact that Jesus has abolished in His flesh the enmity of the law of commandments contained in ordinances, creating in Himself one new man from the two, Jew and Gentile, and making peace. vs. 15
  - 3) In view of the fact that Jesus reconciled Jew and Gentile to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. vs. 16
  - 4) In view of the fact that Jesus came and preached the gospel of peace to you Gentiles who were far off, as well as the Jews who were near. vs. 17
  - 5) In view of the fact that through Jesus both Jew and Gentile have access by one Spirit to the Father. vs. 18
- 2. Paul is describing the miraculous new position of the Gentiles in the Kingdom of God emphatically by stating it in the negative. vs. 19c

- a. No longer strangers “xenos”, means a foreigner in a nation or city for a short or longer stay, but were simply tolerated.
  - \* A licensed sojourner in a town, whose protection and status were secured by the payment of a small tax.” Lenski
- b. No longer foreigners “paroikos”, indicates someone who lives in a place without the rights of citizenship.
  - 1) Having no rights or protection!
  - 2) The same word was used for being strangers from the covenant of promise, having not hope and without God in the world. vs. 12

**B.** The apostle Paul declared the Gentiles were inside the Kingdom of God.

\* “but fellow citizens with the saints.” vs. 19d

- 1. Paul told them they were some of the people that comprised the Kingdom of God.
  - a. The word but “alla” could be translated nevertheless, notwithstanding.
    - 1) Marking a sharp contrast.
    - 2) Pointing their high privilege position.
  - b. These Gentiles had equal standing as the Jews.
    - 1) They were fellow citizens “sumpolites”, means possessing the same citizenship with others.

- 2) The word is a compound word, “sun” with and the word “polites” an inhabitant of a city.
  - 3) The tense is the indicative present active.
  - 4) The word appears only this time in the New Testament.
2. Paul indicated who they were citizens with, “the saints”.
- a. The word saints “hagios”, in its most basic meaning means those set apart for God.
  - b. The others saints were the Jews who had become Christians by accepting Jesus.
  - c. The Gentiles were never citizens of Israel or the Kingdom, except by proselyting.

### Illustration

A person receiving U.S. citizenship in years past were elated and had the sense of honor, received all rights and privileges of an American, so the Gentiles.

### Application

- 1. Some people base their citizenship in heaven on having their names in a church roll, others in their baptism and not the new birth.
  - \* Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again or he would not see the Kingdom of God. Jn. 3:3-5
- 2. Others base it on their moral living or good deeds.
  - a. But all human being fall short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

- b. All are saved by grace through faith that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God. Eph. 2:8-9
- 3. The believer's citizenship is in relation to the Kingdom of God through the gospel.
  - a. "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the **kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." Matt. 9:35
  - b. Jesus said, "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your **names** are **written** in heaven." Lk. 10:20
  - c. Paul says, "And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption." 1Cor. 15:49-50
  - d. Paul stated, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." Phil. 3:20-21

***The Gentiles were citizens of God's Kingdom!***

**II. Family members of God's household. vs. 19d-20**

- A. The apostle Paul declared the Gentiles were in the family of God. vs. 19d
  - \* "and members of the household of God."
    - 1. Paul pointed out the Gentiles had entered into a personal and intimate relationship with God. vs. 19d
      - a. He already told Jew and Gentile this relationship was made possible through the Son Jesus Christ. vs. 18
      - b. He also told the Jew and Gentile had access by one Spirit. vs. 18
      - c. He told Jew and Gentile their access was to the Father. vs. 18
    - 2. Paul pointed out the Gentiles had many brothers and sisters in the family of God.
      - a. All called saints. Eph. 1:1, 15, 18; 3:8, 18; 4:12; 5:3; 6:18
      - b. All blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. Eph. 1:3
      - c. All chose in Jesus to be holy and without blame in love. Eph. 1:4
      - d. All predestined to adoption as sons and daughters by Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:5
      - e. All God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works to walk in them. Eph. 2:10
    - 3. Paul pointed out the Gentiles had been endowed with the love of God for those in the family of God.
      - a. Paul had heard about it, "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the

Lord Jesus and your **love** for all the saints. Eph. 1:15

- b. Paul told them the love of God was the motive to save them, “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great **love** with which He loved us.” Eph. 2:4
- c. Paul desired that they would yield to God’s love for each other in the body of the church. Eph. 3:17, 19; 4:2, 15-16; 5:2
- d. Paul wanted the love of God to be expressed in marriage and the family. Eph. 5:25, 28, 33
- e. Paul closes the epistle to those who love the Lord Jesus, “Grace *be* with all those who **love** our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.” Eph. 6:24

**B.** The apostle Paul declared the stability of the Gentiles in the family of God. vs. 20

- 1. Paul affirmed that these Gentiles had believed and accepted the gospel message of repentance to enter the Kingdom of God. vs. 20a
  - \* “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”
- a. The foundation laid by the apostles and prophets refers to Jesus.
  - 1) They had believed Jesus to be the God-Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit.
  - 2) They had believed Jesus atoned for their sins by dying in their place.

3) They had believed Jesus had forgiven all their sins.

\* “For no other **foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1Cor. 3:11

- b. The Greek has the article making apostles and prophets one class.
  - 1) These are not referring to the Old Testament, but the New Testament confirmed by the letter.
  - 2) “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy **apostles** and **prophets:**” Eph. 3:5
  - 3) “And He Himself gave some *to be* **apostles**, some **prophets**, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.” Eph. 4:11
  - 4) Certainly the twelve commissioned by Jesus and men like Agabus, Philip and Barnabas. Acts 21:9, 10; 13:1
- c. The Gentiles built on this solid foundation.
  - 1) The phrase having been built is a participle aorist passive.
  - 2) The aorist points back to the past fact and the passive points back to God as the agent.

- 3) The word built “epoikodomeo”, means to finish the structure on which the foundation has already been laid.
  - 4) They had abandoned their pagan beliefs and concepts about God!
2. Paul confirmed that these Gentiles faith was solely on Jesus Christ. vs. 20b
- \* “Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*.”
- a. The word cornerstone “akrogoniaios” means “at the tip of the angle”, Lenski tells us.
    - 1) The stone would be placed at the extreme corner, the corner foundational stone.
    - 2) This stone would not only be the foundation of the building, but would determine angle of the wall for the alignment to plumb each stone erected on the walls.
    - 3) The word is used only one other time in the New Testament, but Peter quotes Isaiah, “Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” 1Pet. 2:6-7; “Is. 28:16”
  - b. This is a quote from Psalms.

- 1) “The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.” Ps. 118:22
- 2) The commentary is, “This was the LORD’S doing; It *is* marvelous in our eyes.” Ps. 118:23
- 3) Jesus quoted this prophetic of Him. Matt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Lk. 20:17
- 5) Jesus aligns and plumbs us with the Himself, aligning His family with Father and the Spirit.
- 4) This is the invisible church, the real church, not the one we see that claims to be the church!

### Illustration

Paul uses a term in Romans for an adopted son that in Greek indicates the position of a natural son with full benefits, even though it did not naturally belong to him, this describes every believer Jew or Gentile!

### Application

1. Each of us must beware that we not build on any other foundation other than the person and teachings of Christ.
  - a. “And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles’ doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42
  - b. “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed

to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.” 1Tim. 1:3-4

2. All that we are or ever will be is due to our alignment with and to the chief cornerstone Jesus.
  - a. We were the crooked ones and only Jesus can straighten us out by our repentance to be His workmanship. Eph. 2:10
  - b. We become sons and daughters and join heirs of Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:17
  - c. Pauls says, “Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.” 2Cor. 6:17-18
3. The family and household of God goes beyond denominational barriers.
  - a. The invisible church on earth and the visible church in heaven, “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.” Eph. 3:14-15
  - b. Each of us are to conduct ourselves as the family of God, “But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1Tim. 3:15
  - c. We are to be known by our love, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all,

especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Gal. 6:10

***The Gentiles were family members of God's household!***

### **III. Fitted stones for God’s house. vs. 21-22**

- A. The apostle Paul declared each person individually is a temple for God. vs. 21
  1. Paul affirmed again the consistent link Jesus. vs. 21a
    - \* “in whom”,
      - a. The foundation of the apostles and prophets. vs. 20a
      - b. The chief cornerstone. vs. 20b
    - 2. Paul confirmed the church as a whole is comprised of many individuals. vs. 21a-b
      - \* “the whole building, being joined together.”
        - a. Every individual is being joined together in and by Jesus.
          - 1) The phrase being joined together “sunarmologeō” means to connect or frame closely together, found only one other time in the New Testament. Eph. 4:16
          - 2) This is a participle present middle, by the Lord Jesus continuously.

- 3) This metaphor is the highest privilege of the three, I become the temple of God! ICor. 6:19-20
3. Paul stated the particular individual comprise the temple of God. vs. 21c  
\* “grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”
- a. The word grows “auxano”, means to make grow or cause to grow.
- 1) The tense is the indicative present active.
  - 2) Jesus is constantly adds to His church.
- b. The composite of its individual sons and daughters are growing into a holy temple in the Lord.
- 1) The word for temple “naos” indicated the Holy and Holy of Holies of the temple in Jerusalem.
  - 2) The temple of God is an organism, not an organization.
- B.** The apostle Paul declared the holy temple comprised of united believers for the habitation of God corporately. vs. 22
1. Paul expanded the understanding of the church body beyond the individual or local church body.  
\* “you also are being built together.”
  - a. The phrase being built together “sunoikodomeo” denotes inner spiritual union, found only this time in the New Testament.

- 1) No divisions of nationality.
  - 2) No divisions of culture.
  - 3) No divisions of economics.
- b. The word you “humeis” is plural, Jew and Gentiles together, wherever the church may be.
- 1) Having the same Savior.
  - 2) Having the same Lord.
  - 3) Having the same Scriptures.
2. Paul explained this was made possible by the Spirit.
- \* “for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”
- a. The word dwelling “kataiketerion” means a habitation, to abide in.  
\* The only other time it is found is for Babylon the habitation of demons in the Great Tribulation. Rev. 18:2
- b. This habitation takes place by the Holy Spirit.
- 1) The Spirit “pneuma” refers to the third person of the Trinity. Eph. 1:13; 2:18; 3:5, 16; 4:3, 4, 23, 30; 5:9, 18; 6:17, 18
  - 2) Every believer has the Holy Spirit in them, distinct from the “epi” experience for power. Acts 1:8
  - 3) The Holy Spirit binds, unites and coordinates every local church, regardless of the number of people and the entire church in the world.

**Illustration**

As Solomon quarried out stones that would fit perfectly without tools or mortar, so the Lord has fit each of us together.

**Application**

1. We need to constantly remind ourselves that our bodies, souls and spirit make up the temple of God?
  - \* “And what agreement has the **temple** of God with idols? For you are the **temple** of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among *them*. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” 2Cor 6:16
2. We must constantly be aware of our importance to the life of the body and how we can add or take away from it?
  - a. We are inter-related, affecting one another, we are inter-dependent affecting one another! The concept of individualism is not found or taught in the Bible!
  - b. “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” Rom. 12:3-5
  - c. “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as

He wills. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” 1Cor. 12:11-13

3. We are gathered as the dwelling of God’ s Spirit.
  - a. Paul said, “Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1Pet. 2:4-5
  - b. Jesus said, “I will build my church”. Matt. 16:18

***The Gentiles were fitted stones for God’s house!***

**Conclusion**

Paul described by three metaphors the new relationship of the Gentile to God through the new oneness of Jew and Gentile, the church of Jesus Christ as:

- I. Fellow citizens of God’s Kingdom!
- II. Family members of God’s household!
- III. Fitted stones for God’s house!