



**Center City Church**

# GROWTH

The things you do to become more like Jesus are like **SAILS** on a ship.



# **GATHER in Community**

# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1. An awareness that you are part of the larger **Body of Christ**.
2. Connecting to a *local* Body of Christ (**local church**).
3. Using your gifts to **build up** the Body of Christ; **live out** the *One Another's*.



# EPHESIANS 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) —

<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

# EPHESIANS 2:11-22

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

# EPHESIANS 2:11-22

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

# EPHESIANS 2:11-22

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

# EPHESIANS 2:11-22

<sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2 shows us:

**What we WERE**

**Ephesians 2:19** - *consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers.*

天就行

神樓佛具 名香紙料

時新肉食公司

鴻運  
海味  
鮮產

和順臘家

九記肉食



# EPHESIANS 2:12

remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

*You have made us for yourself, O  
Lord, and our hearts are restless  
until they rest in you.*

**- Augustine**

# What we WERE

- If you are without God, and without hope, you are spiritually HOMELESS.

Ephesians 2 shows us:

**What we ARE**

# What we ARE

- Fellow CITIZENS.
- Members of God's HOUSEHOLD.
- STONES in a temple.





# What we ARE

The most powerful force of all is the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ.



# What we ARE

GOD creates Christian COMMUNITY by his Spirit, through believing the gospel. But YOU have to choose to GATHER.

**We must deepen our relationships  
with other Christians to the point of:**

**1. Personal ACCOUNTABILITY.**



**We must deepen our relationships  
with other Christians to the point of:**

- 1. Personal ACCOUNTABILITY.**
- 2. Whole-life HOSPITALITY.**

# EPHESIANS 4:28

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

**We must deepen our relationships  
with other Christians to the point of:**

- 1. Personal ACCOUNTABILITY.**
- 2. Whole-life HOSPITALITY.**
- 3. Corporate SPIRITUALITY.**



# What we ARE

The deeper you get into the lives of SPIRITUAL friends, and the spiritual lives of FRIENDS, the deeper you will get into Jesus himself.

# EPHESIANS 3:17-19

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



*You'll have the surpassing power of God flowing through your life to the degree that you deepen your relationships and get involved in Christian community in the ways that we're talking about.*

Ephesians 2 shows us:

**How we BECOME what we are**

# EPHESIANS 4:3

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

# EPHESIANS 2:21

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

# How we BECOME what we are

- See Jesus as the CORNERSTONE.

**Ephesians 2:20** - *...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*





# ISAIAH 28:16

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

# PSALM 118:22-23

The stone the builders rejected has  
become the cornerstone;  
<sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this, and it is  
marvelous in our eyes.

# EPHESIANS 2:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.



# 1 PETER 2:4-5

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him — <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood...”

# Seek to Gather in:

- Weekly LARGE Group Worship

# Seek to Gather in:

- Weekly **LARGE** group gatherings
- Regular **MEDIUM**-sized fellowships

# Seek to Gather in:

- Weekly LARGE group gatherings
- Regular MEDIUM sized fellowships
- Intentional SMALL, personal relationships.



Nova Guinea  
Terra de Picci

MARIS ATLANTICI  
SIVE MAR DEL NORT

Caribana

AMERICA  
MERIDIONA  
LIOR PARS

Charcas

Chili

Petagona

GENIO ET INGEN  
BILI DN. NICOLAO RO  
PATRICIO ANTVERP  
EIVSDEMQUE VRBIS SENATU RI

Abrahamus Ortelius Regis Hispaniarum  
Geographus  
lub. merito. adhibuit

VERBA AVS RALIS

DEL

Z. J. R.

Archipe  
lagus in