

## Eph 2:11-22 United in Christ

**God's Goal: To build a new spiritual family with true unity in community. The gospel tears down all dividing walls and hostility and brings peace.**

### **Satan's Strategy: division and isolation**

1. **Church is an optional add on.** *Most Christians think in terms of attending a church, not being the church.* Result: It's nice to do if the kids don't have a game or the weather is too bad to golf or fish.
2. **Consumer Christianity-** He plays to our self-centeredness, so we evaluate a church based on whether or not the church meets our felt needs, instead of whether it teaches sound doctrine or has an emphasis on the Great Commission or biblical criteria which results in a lack of commitment to Jesus' bride. So, we look for what we can get out of it instead of how we can serve the body.
3. **Offense:** The church is made up of broken people. But it is precisely in navigating through our brokenness that we grow.

### **Solutions:**

1. **I must see myself "in Christ":** He is my head, the source of my instructions. Many see Jesus as a trusted adviser, with optional counsel, rather than Lord (master).
2. **I must see myself as part of a new family as my best place for growth.** The brilliance of being part of the body, being fellow citizens, of the same family, is the opportunity to grow more like Jesus. It's the same with the local church. 1 Peter 2:5 says we are living stones being fitted together. The friction of being living stones refines us and "fits" us.

### **Grow Group Questions:**

1. Have you ever experienced offense by someone at church or has church hurt kept you from His bride? Why does that happen and what do you think Jesus would want to say to you?
  - a. What happens when I persevere in relationships despite the "friction" with those other "living stones"?
2. What are the reasons that we remove ourselves from the community? What happens when we have a lack of commitment or isolate ourselves from the body of Christ?
3. Which of Paul's community analogies speaks to you the most and why? (Body, Church, Building, Family, Fellow Citizens).
4. Why does Satan want to keep us fragmented?

### **Announcements 3/24**

- Stephen Briggs: 5 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know and Israel Documentary - TONIGHT at 5:30pm in the Youth Room.
- **GriefShare** New Session starting March 26th - 13 week study on finding understanding, guidance and relief navigating the challenges of grief. Visit [feathersoundchurch.com/griefshare](http://feathersoundchurch.com/griefshare) for more information.
- **EASTER** - March 31st - Sunrise Service at 6:30am at the Feather Sound Country Club. Baptisms immediately following. If you would like to be baptized, please visit [feathersoundchurch.com/baptism](http://feathersoundchurch.com/baptism). Breakfast served in the Cafe afterwards. Special Easter message at the 9am and 11am services.
- **Worship Wednesday** - April 3rd dinner starting at 6pm - See the event posting at [feathersoundchurch.com/events](http://feathersoundchurch.com/events) to sign up to bring a dish to the potluck.
- **Youth Car Wash** - April 6th from 9am to 12pm. Come support the youth group and get the pollen off of your car!
- **Passover Seder Dinner** - April 22nd at 6:30pm. Adults are \$20 and Kids (under 10) are \$10. See the event posting on [feathersoundchurch.com/events](http://feathersoundchurch.com/events).