



The Third Race

Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

1. GOD HAS GIVEN US _____

(Hebrews 4:16, Mark 4:35-41)

*Those who were formerly profane and unworthy ... [have now become] partners with the godly, have now the rights of citizens along with Abraham, with all the holy patriarchs, and prophets, and kings, nay [i.e., no, better than that!], with the angels themselves! --
John Calvin*

2. GOD IS BUILDING _____

(Philippians 3:20; Philippians 1:27)

3. GOD IS BUILDING _____

(Ephesians 3:14-15, Matthew 6:9, Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6, 1 Timothy 5:1-2)

4. GOD IS BUILDING _____

(Ephesians 3:4, 5; 4:11, 2 Timothy 4:2)

*Cornerstone. (Isaiah 28:16; cf. 8:14-16; Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42; and Acts 4:11).
Building blocks. (Ephesians 2:21-22, 1 Peter 2:4-5, Exodus 40:34-35, 1 Kings 8:10-11)*

The city—The family—The temple



Group Discussion:

1. Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and discuss the following.
 1. What do we see here as the end result of different groups and classes of people understanding God's grace in Christ?
 2. What metaphors here describe our new reality?
 3. Do you think we're experiencing this kind of "living temple" here in our church?
2. Reflect on the following questions as a group:
 1. Is there some aspect of your life that you have looked to as a measure of your worth—rather than the grace of God—that may be leading you to be motivated by pride?
 2. Is there some relationship, or some kind of people that you've cut yourself off from or looked down at?
 3. How can you let God's grace move you to start crossing those dividing lines and pursuing unified relationships?

Cross the Bridge: Your Next 7 Day Assignment

Grace is favor that's unearned. How can you be an instrument of grace in somebody's life in the next seven days? Pray about it and act on it.