



Why Stay Put?
Ephesians 2.19-22; Psalm 27.4

What does the church mean to you, personally? If you take the question of this sermon series and personalize it: Why the Church (*for you*)? The New Testament word for “church” is found hundreds of times, which indicates that the writers took church seriously; and this is to say nothing of the myriad metaphors for the church. Even though in our focus text, Paul doesn’t use “church,” the idea is everywhere, tucked in behind some powerful metaphors.

Pastor Eric

If you back way up to the beginning of Ephesians 2, Paul characterizes the people he’s writing to. How does he describe them? Who else does he characterize this way in verse 3? Since that includes us, we can read ourselves into his letter to the Ephesians.

Compare our previous condition, described in verses 1-3, and compare it to his description of us in verses 19-22. What happened to us that led him to change his description so radically? Hint: Keep reading past verse 3!

This gives way to my description of the church as “a group of people saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.” This may be the most basic, stripped down, definition of the church there is. Do you think it’s accurate? What does that description say to you?

As you look at verses 19-22, who is represented by the cornerstone, and who is represented by the foundation? What are the implications of Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone of the church? Write down many as implications as you can think of. Next, do the same for the foundation.

Think practically: How is *our* church centered on Jesus? Can you think of other ways that our church can be better centered on Jesus? Tie some of your thoughts to Paul’s metaphor of the foundation. Are there ways we can be better anchored to the apostles and prophets?

Notice how Paul describes the household of God as a living entity that is in constant flux. Twice he says the household is being built together. If we, as the church, are the household, what does that mean, especially in practical terms? How are we being built together?

Stop and observe how important community is to you in terms of your own spiritual life. Who can you reach out to this week to encourage back into community? Who is confined to their home that you can reach out to this week as a gesture of simple Christian fellowship?