

Ephesians 2:18-22 (NASB)

18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

I. 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

a. Access - Prosagoge (pros-ä-go-ga') - that relationship with God whereby we are acceptable to him and have assurance that he is favorably disposed towards us

i. *pictures provision of access into the presence of One Whom we would normally be restricted from approaching. In the Orient, one who came to see a king needed both access—the right to come and an introduction—the proper presentation. You couldn't just waltz into a king's presence. To do so would invite death. In fact the Persian royal court actually had an official called the prosagogeus whose function was to introduce people who desired an audience with the king.*

ii. What an incredible access to the Father that we have:

1. **Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)** So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

2. **Ephesians 3:12 (NASB95)** in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

3. **Ephesians 3:12 (KJV)** In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

iii. **The idea of this access isn't just that Jesus provided a way for us to the Father though, He provided the invitation, He then brought us to the Father, and then the introduction when we got there.**

1. **1 Peter 3:18 (NASB95)** For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

a. **Bring us** - prosago (pros-ä'-go) - root word for prosagoge.

2. **Romans 5:1b-2 (NASB95)** 1b...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

3. **John 10:9 (NASB95)** “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.
4. Jesus uses the word pasture here. This word means: *food or fodder; not being in want of the needful supplies for the true life*
5. In other words we weren’t just invited and then introduced and accepted by Jesus. We are also going to be provided the ability to be sustained via communion or fellowship with Him. The picture is an animal being lead to a gated pasture (Jesus being the gate), lead through the gate and then having the ability to pasture in that field as much or as little as they would want.

- iv. **We both** (Jew & Gentile) have this privilege in this new way **through** Jesus Christ.
- v. If you review scripture you will see a common theme, this idea of “through Christ” is significant. We can see in just the last few passages we looked at, regardless of the outcome, the mechanism of action that allows an outcome to happen is “through Jesus”.

vi. What needed to happen for this “through Him” to mean what it does?

1. **Matthew 27:50-51 (NASB95)** 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.
2. **Hebrews 10:20 (NASB95)** by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

vii. The price Jesus paid so that you and I can not only be reconciled to God, but to then have continued harmony with Him was tremendous!

II. **19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,**

- a. Our belief in Christ has changed everything about our futures. As Paul alluded to in this chapter this is who we were:
- b. **Ephesians 2:12 (NASB95)** remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- c. Not only are we no longer excluded we have been made citizens with the saints (OT) and have been brought into God’s household.
 - i. **Citizen** - inhabitant of any city or country.
 - ii. **Let’s never forgot that we are citizens of Siloam Springs and the United States temporarily.** This isn’t home. You and I are passing through.
 1. **When I first moved to Siloam Springs about 30 years ago and people asked where’s home at? I’d say Indiana, Ohio or Michigan. I’d been in those places longer than Arkansas. Now that I’ve been in Arkansas as long as I have I see myself as a citizen of Arkansas.**

2. In other words time play a role in where I saw home at. The longer I'm somewhere the more likely I am to see myself from there.
3. If I'm going to spend eternity in heaven, where should I see home or my citizenship at? Not the 70 or 80 years I spend here!

a. **Philippians 3:20 (NASB95)** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

iii. **Household** - Belonging to a house or family. I belong to a house or family:

1. That I was separated from at birth.
2. That God the Father desired for me to be back in
3. That He sent the Spirit to convict me of my separation and Invite me back to
4. That His Son provided a way back to and is my entry way to, then that same Son brings me to the Father, introduces me and is the reason I get to stay and have fellowship.

III. 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

a. **The foundation of the apostles and prophets** - are the apostles and prophets the foundation? Paul describes in more detail in 1 Cor:

i. **1 Corinthians 3:9-11 (NASB95)** 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (POURING CONCRETE IDEA. HE'S THE FOUNDATION BEING POURED, HE ALLOWS US TO POUR IT.)

b. We see in the passage that it's both the Apostles and Prophets. This shows us that there is a common thread in scripture.

- i. The Prophets were speaking to the Jews and trying to build that house.
- ii. The Apostles were speaking to the whole world and trying to build that house.
- iii. What we see though is that in God's grand and mysterious plan the house is all the same house because the foundation or the message was the same for both groups:

1. **Luke 24:15-27 (NASB95)** 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. 17 And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, 20 and how the

chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. 21 “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.

Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 22 “But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. 24 “Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.” 25 And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

- iv. **Jesus Christ is the message that the Prophets and the Apostles have been talking about and building on. If the message is about anything other than Him, it is a false foundation that won't hold.**

IV. Under Construction

- a. Notice something in these verses: **20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.**
- b. Peter speaks about this idea in the same way:
 - i. **1 Peter 2:4-5 (NASB95)** 4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- c. What are those spiritual sacrifices? How are we living stones on this foundation?
 - i. **Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB95)** 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.