**A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Ephesians 2:11-22

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:19-22, ESV)

**Introduction**

Ephesians 2:1-3 spoke of how we were “dead in the trespasses and sins” and “by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” Not only were we once God’s enemies, but we were also as good as dead even though we thought we were alive and could thrive apart from God. Christ’s ministry of reconciliation doesn’t stop with our redemption, reconciliation, or with our becoming expressions of God’s master-craftsmanship; the Father works for our restoration as His children and for the reconciliation of others. That’s why living in enemy mode is living in opposition to God.

**1. Once separated, alienated, strangers, without hope, and without God. (Ephesians 2:11-12)**

 a) What does it mean to have once been “Gentiles in the flesh”?

 b) Once separated, alienated, strangers, “having no hope and without God in the world.”

**2. Christ has reconciled us Himself and has become our peace. (Ephesians 2:13-18)**

 a) Why is it important for Christ Himself to be our peace?

 b) The Cross of Christ was for so much more than personal redemption.

**3. We are being built together in a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)**

 a) We are “fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household.”

 b) What are you giving for God’s “holy temple” and “dwelling place”?

**Conclusion**

We may think of the house of God as our church building, that “tent of meeting” in the wilderness, or perhaps even Solomon’s Temple. However, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to describe the structure or dwelling place of God here with the Greek word οἰκοδομή (oikodomē): a compound of two words meaning “household” or “family” and “housetop” or “roof.” While the conditions of fellowship with God are very different between Old and New Covenants, two things seem to remain the same: God’s people do their best to build a dwelling for God to live with them and God invites us to dwell with Him. What’s changed is the recognition that God comes to live in as well as among us through His Spirit.

**For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:**

1) Practice quieting and “CAKES” before sharing recent stories of escaping enemy mode.

2) Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and share one thing the Spirit shows or tells you through the text.

3) Confess your needs and pray for one another (see James 5:13-20).

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