

## Ephesians 2:19-22 The Building of God

**19** Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**Three men were laying bricks – on a Church Building – a little boy came on the job site.**

A)The men were not working in the same area – the little boy asked each man – what are you doing mister?

B)**1<sup>st</sup> Laying brick / 2<sup>nd</sup> Helping build a building / 3<sup>rd</sup> – Helping build a building where people can come to meet with God.**

**C)Perspective is everything. – Which man appreciated his job the most?**

1)The man who knew what he was doing had both a spiritual and eternal significance!

D)But more than knowing we are doing something significant the Lord wants us to know that we are a Part of something significant

**Here in this first part of our study in the book of Ephesians – the focus has been on our Identity in Christ**

A)Learned things like – IN Christ – **I am a Saint** – set apart / In Christ I have been **made alive** – dead in sin

B)In Christ – **I have access to the Father** – once denied – now welcome

C)IN Christ – **I am God's workmanship** – created in Christ.....

**D)IN Christ – I am a citizen of heaven (no longer an alien ) and a member of the Household of God. No longer stranger – family**

1)The list goes on and on

E)But here in V. 21 Paul tells us one more thing – I am a part of a building

**God is building something – and I am a part of it!**

A)God is BUILDING something out of this new humanity.

B)We are, individually, building blocks in a living structure that is His dwelling place on this earth.

1 Peter 2:4-5 NLT You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. 5And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.

**C)Living stones – heard of the Rolling stones – we are the Living stones**

D)We have been brought together to be a part of this amazing thing that God calls the Church – the Ekklesia – called out ones

**We used to think that we could only find our deepest sense of meaning by being a free-standing stone!**

A)Some of you remember the hit from Simon and Garfunkel – I am a Rock I am an Island – that is how we lived.

**B)I am my own building.**

1)It is about me – survival of the fittest – everything relates to my life, my goals, my dreams

C)Your free standing stone only matters as it relates to how you fit with my stone – my life – my dreams

**Paul is wanting us to understand that in Christ – we are a part of something bigger than ourselves.**

A)We are all living stones in the Building of God

B)As we consider this unique aspect of our identity in Christ today – I want to focus on 3 things

1)Foundation, the Formation and the Function of this building

**#1 Foundation**

A)In the realm of architecture a building block has to be related to the foundation. Foundation is key

B)Every human being is building their lives on some kind of foundation.

C)But as the people members of the building of God our lives are to be built on the foundation supplied by God.

**20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.**

**D)THIS IS HUGE** — This structure that God is building demands a foundation that never changes, never shifts.

**The foundation for this living temple was laid by the Apostles and the prophets.**

A)The apostles examined Jesus virtually every moment for 3 years.

B)They were heard Him speak, heard the way He spoke, saw the look in His eyes when He spoke.

C)Jesus explained to them the things He said. They not only heard, they saw all that Jesus did, the way He lived.

**D)They were convinced that Jesus was God come into human flesh.**

**Apostle John's testimony**

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — 2the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — 3that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**The faith of the first Christians was built upon the testimony and teaching of those men**

A)Acts 2:42 **They devoted themselves to the apostles' doctrine.**

B)So too We are building our lives on what they believed and taught about Jesus.

C)Take Paul wrote this letter– Enemy of Jesus – Rd to Damascus

1)Everything changed –

D)From a life that was dedicated to be against Jesus to a life dedicated to making Jesus Known

**E)Paul spoke of himself as “a wise master builder” who “laid a foundation.”**

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**Paul in our text refers to Jesus as the Cornerstone.**

A)Every building had a Cornerstone

B)CORNERSTONE — The cornerstone thus functioned as the supporting stone,

1)the stone that oriented all other stone, and the stone that unified of the entire building.

**20 .... Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**

*1 Peter 2:4 NLT You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple.*

**QUOTE:** Spurgeon — The Christian life is begun, continued, and perfected altogether in connection with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jesus told the Story of the parable of the two Builders**

A)Difference one heard the word and ignored it

B)One heard the word and put it into practice.

C)Listen that is the way all of us are building our lives – We hear and put into practice or we hear and ignore.

D)Married: Building your marriage – Hear what the Lord says – marriage is to look like – **Husbands love as ..... Nourish and Cherish as own body**

**E)Ok that is what I am going to do with the Holy Spirit's help**

1)Result – Strong marriage

**Wife – in response to that – with the Holy Spirit's help – you Love and respect and support – Husband**

A)When two people are taking God's word – applying it to their marriage – Marriage built on a Rock

**B)But for those who say – that doesn't work for us – or I can't do that or I don't want to do that**

1)Marriage that is built on the sand – it is going to crumble

**C)LISTEN/ UNDERSTAND The INDIVIDUAL building block is NOT the foundation.**

**D)See there are a lot of professing Christians who make themselves the final authority on the Bible**

1)rather than letting the Bible be the final authority on them.

**They've decided that they will be the foundation instead of being a building block.**

A)They're saying, "My own mind and my own heart are going to be the foundation."

**B)When that happens there's no longer an unshifting, changeless foundation**

**C)Foundation that is shifted by emotions and circumstances and will have no stability.**

**D)Question: Are you a building block trying to be the foundation?**

**E)Is your opinion or feelings and emotion the foundation by which you judge Scripture?**

1)or is Scripture the foundation by which you judge your opinion?

**Our lives are either built on the Foundation of the Person of Jesus Christ and his word or it is NOT!**

A)Jesus is the great cornerstone of every living stone in this living structure.

**B)We are joined to Him, we find our place in the building relative to Him.**

1)When we calibrate our lives relative to the chief cornerstone we are never out of place —

**C)We are exactly where we should be in this living temple —**

1)surrounded by the exact other building blocks He wants us to be joined to.

**So first of all we have the foundation – Now let's consider #2 The Formation. –**

A)Notice Paul's language here in our text

20...Jesus Christ himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, **being fitted together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being **built together** for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

A) "**fitted together** describes the idea of being joined together in a coherent and compatible manner and intimate union.

**B)Think of baking – Who here likes fresh baked Snicker Doodles ?**

**C)If I were to take the individual ingredients of the cookies and place them on a counter –**

1)Individually by themselves – not desirable – nothing special

**D)Put them into a mixer – mix them – tray – oven – what comes out is SPECTACULAR**

1)Several of you will be baking this afternoon.

**So too in the building of God – we have been uniquely fitted together – our connection to Jesus makes us special**

A)But understand – our being fitted together is an on going process

**B)Sanctification – Process of being transformed and fitted.**

**C)Building of the temple – the rocks were being fitted in the rock quarry below –**

1)before being transported – temple site above

**D)This world is our rock quarry – Patient with each other –**

1)Jesus is fitting that brother or sister –

**The only difference – phrase Peter uses – We are LIVING STONES**

A)Which means that we can resist the refining process from the Lord

**B)Learn to lean into his chisel – not away from it!**

**C)What area of your life is Jesus working on right now?**

1)Pride? Patience? Faith ? - Lean into him – not away from Him

Philippians 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

**D)What is the process going to be like for you – Battle or a blessing**

**That divine FORMATION leads to #3 the FUNCTION**

**21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, GROWS into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

**A)Note that phrase a holy Temple v.21**

**B)The normal word for temple means the whole complex, all the precincts of the temple.**

**C)This word doesn't describe the whole temple, it describes the Holy of Holies.**

**D)The Holy of Holies was the place where the Shekinah glory of God dwelt**

**1)It was considered the Dwelling place of God**

**Paul is letting us know that the Dwelling place of God on earth is not in some building –**

**A)not in this inner sanctum of this earthly structure.**

**B)Now the Dwelling place of God is in the individual stones – that God is fashioning and forming**

**C)Every living stone is the dwelling place of God.**

1Corinthians 6:19-20 *Or do you not know that your body is a temple (naos = Holy of holies) of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

**Don't miss this wonderful truth – each one of us has the Spirit of God in Us –**

**A)Each one of us – living breathing expression of who Jesus is**

**B)And as wonderful as that is – it is even more incredible when we come together –**

**1)Collective expression of the glory of God**

**C)Lives transformed by the Person and power of Jesus! - Turn to 1 Peter 2**

<sup>4</sup>Coming to Him *as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,* <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

*“Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”*

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to those who are disobedient,

*“The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,”* <sup>8</sup> and

*“A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.”*

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

<sup>9</sup>But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

**Proclaim praises – Not just worship**

**A)Living worship – our very lives would be illustrations of the grace and power of God.**

**B)People who have been taken out of darkness and brought into the light**

**C)Once far from God – but now – the very people of God.**

**The FORMATION is related to FUNCTION**

**A)Every living building block is quarried, shaped and placed for a specific purpose — growth.**

**Ephesians 4:16** from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of **each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

**B) We are like this unit – giving to each other supporting one another**

1) We all have our roles and our functions –

C) Let us help you find yours!

**This is one reason why Church is so important!**

A) We are connected – we have been fit together – we are to express together the glory of God

B) We are meant to find our place and function in this thing called the body of Christ

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25

C) Some Christians think - Church is an option.”

1) National stats – the average American Christian – goes to church 2x a month.

D) Don't be average!

**Paul is telling us that this new kind of humanity has been saved to and for ekklesia! – Called out and called together!**

A) Christianity is about community.

B) The individual Christian only finds his true place when he is built into the church —

1) fitted with — connected to — the other believers who make up this living structure.

**C) When you are trying to live out your new identity in Jesus by yourself you are attempting the impossible.**

**This is why: God saved you, quarried you out, to be a building block — a living stone —**

A) fitted along side of other living stones.

B) So To not be in accountable relationships with other Christians;

1) to not be bearing one another's burdens and having other people bear your burdens **is a violation of your new nature —**

2) It is an aberration of the new kind of humanity God is making in Jesus.

C) Every believer has a place in a community of other believers **because THAT is the plan of the architect.**

D) Lean into that Church- lean into Him –

**Your greatest sense of Joy and purpose will come from being a part of the Body – Building**

A) Discovering your place – being a part of the team

B) Love to help you figure that out.

C) Appointment – Pastor – go to home group

D) Women's group

**LAST Year we as a Church sent out this great couple Lafe and Kali Issacson to do a new work – in a place called Wilkes Barre PA**

20 miles from Scranton

**Kali – is from there – Kind of dark place – depressed**

A) But also a College town –

B) Lafe and Kali – had a vision to open a Coffee house to reach out to the community

1) Do Bible studies / Live music nights

C) Eventually – turn into a Church

**1st Year – spent – acclimated – praying – Lafe got a good Job –in Construction**

A) Prayed looking for the right place –

B) Late November – found an old bank – empty

C) Lease – **spent the last 4 months** – pretty much by himself – renovating – getting open

D) Almost there - Need about \$6,000 to finish and get open.

1) Check out what they have done so far

**Want to help? – Text 77977 – type in GIVECVM SEE - “Abiding Inn”.**

OUR MISSIONS PAGE – SENDING FUNDS