

Ephesians 2:13–22 Pastor Phil Ward

SERMON OUTLINE

I. WHY BOTHER LEARNING ABOUT CHURCH?

- A. Our appreciation and association with anything increases with greater understanding.
- B. God has designed the Church to be counter-cultural (John 17:14-19; 1 Corinthians 1:2)
- C. Our hearts are formed by church as it becomes a habit for us (Hebrews 10:24-25)

II. WHAT IS CHURCH?

- A. What the word "church" means
 - 1. It's translated from the Greek "Ekklesia" which means literally the "called out ones" or it means "assembly" **(Acts 19:32)**
 - 2. It's used to translate the Hebrew word "qahal" which means "congregate" or "assemble" (Acts 7:38; Exodus 35:1)
- B. How the word "church" is used
 - 1. It's used to describe a local gathering of Christians (**Philemon 1-2**), and a local gathering in a city (**Galatians 1:1**)
 - It's used to describe all the people who are Christians from all times and places—the "universal church" (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25)
- C. The New Testament refers to the Church without using the word at times (Revelation 5:9-10)

III. THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH (Ephesians 2:13-22)

- A. The Church is the blood-bought people of God (Ephesians 2:13; Revelation 5:9-10; Acts 20:28; Titus 2:14)
- B. The Church is a new creation (Ephesians 2:14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)
 - 1. Individually, each of us is given newness of life
 - 2. We, as a people, are also made new
- C. The Church is the household of God (Ephesians 2:17-19; 1 Timothy 3:16; Romans 8:14-17)
- D. The Church is an organism and an organization (Ephesians 2:20)
 - 1. The Church is alive and grows (Ephesians 4:15-16)
 - 2. The Church is inherently doctrinal and Apostolic (Acts 2:42)
- E. The Church is a dwelling place for God (Ephesians 2:21-22; Revelation 2:1; 1 Corinthians 14:25)
 - 1. We, individually, come together to be a dwelling place for God (1 Peter 2:4-5)
 - 2. When we come together God is with us

U. IN COMMUNION, THE CHURCH COMES TO TOGETHER AS A BODY TO REMEMBER CHRIST'S BODY GIVEN FOR US (1 Corintbians 11:23-26)



Ephesians 2:13-22

For But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have 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 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.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. When you hear "church" what comes to mind?

2. Why should we bother with learning about the bible's teaching on the Church?

3. If someone were to ask you "what is the church?" how would you reply? How does having an accurate understanding of what the Church is lead to a proper understanding of what the Church's purpose?

4. Of the five subjects listed under "The Nature of the Church", which one did you find most challenging and which was most affirming?

5. How can a growing esteem for Christ and His Church promote deeper discipleship?