

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 2:19-22]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- In your personal devotion with the Lord, what has the Lord revealed to you through His word this past week? If not, what is keeping you from the Lord?
- When you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read our primary text. In general, what does it mean to be a citizen of a country? If you enter a country that you are not a citizen of, how might you feel? What do you need to have prepared as you travel? [Maybe some have traveled for missions and experienced this]

To be a citizen means that you have rights and privileges that also come with responsibility, allegiance and loyalty. You are also protected within the borders of the country you maintain citizenship. Entering a country of which you are not a citizen can oftentimes make us feel like strangers and aliens of a foreign land. As outsiders, we must carry and protect our identities at all cost to be able to prove citizenship of our homeland.

2. Paul is referring to a different kind of citizenship. What is he describing here? Who are refugees in this newly described kingdom?

Paul is describing a citizen that is of the kingdom of God. No one is a stranger or alien in the kingdom of God, all have access by the blood of Jesus Christ. Those who believe in Christ are a part of a larger family, adopted as sons and daughters and have one Father, God.

3. Verse 18 says that we have access to God in One Spirit? How do we have access to God? More specifically, by what merit do we enter the presence of the Lord?

We Pray to the Father in the power of the Spirit, in the name or by the authority and the merit of the Son. Jesus Christ is way to God, he is our Advocate and Mediator.

4. If we were to build the temple of God using the identifiers given in the Bible, how would we build it? What elements make up this newly revealed temple of God? How did this temple compare to the Pagan temples that the Ephesians were used to (Temple of Artemis)?

Jesus Christ – Cornerstone

Apostles and Prophets (the Word) – Foundation

We the citizens/saints/members – Stones for the walls

5. Previously the Gentiles were not even allowed to approach the temple of the Jews, but now Paul is telling them that they ARE the temple. How do you think this made the Gentiles feel?

[Dialogue]

6. How are we (Gentiles) a dwelling place for the Lord?

The Lord has brought us near by the blood of Christ, and chosen us, the church, as his corporate dwelling place as we gather in His name to worship in spirit and truth.

7. Given what we have learned in this passage, should Christians be apathetic towards church/membership? Is it biblical to neglect the church/membership?

No and No. This passage tells us that we are stones in a temple, members of a family, citizens of a kingdom, members of a body, all of these infer being joined together in unity. We are unified, identifiable members of God's church. To neglect this responsibility to support the family God is to reject God's design for the Church.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.