

Message Series:

**Membership Has Its Privileges**  
**A Study on Ephesians 1-3 Belonging to Christ**  
**May 3, 2009**

Today's Message:

**God's New Creation**  
**Ephesians 2:19-22**

Ephesians 2:19-22 NLT

<sup>19</sup>So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. <sup>20</sup>Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. <sup>21</sup>We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup>Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

**Today's Main Thought: The result of Jesus Christ's peacemaking is a new creation in a new community with mind-blowing privileges.**

**Mind-blowing Privileges**

**God's new creation is privileged to be members of...**

- God's Kingdom, v. 19a; (*compare v. 12*)
- God's Family, v. 19b
  - We must be Born Again!, John 3:1-7; 1 Peter 1:22-25
  - We are adopted into God's family, Ephesians 1:5
- God's Holy Temple, v. 20-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; 1 Peter 2:5

**Striving for Landmark Status with...**

- An accurate foundation – doctrinal truth
- The right cornerstone – Jesus Christ
- Living Stones – God's New Creation

**Getting Started:** Read Ephesians 2:19-22

**Digging Deeper:** Many church buildings in the United States and Europe receive special protection from agencies such as the National Register of Historic Places. Historians do research on these landmark buildings, and visitors tour them to learn more about their architectural and cultural significance.

Paul regards the new community of believers (**God's New Creation**) at Ephesus in a similar way (**Eph 2:19-22**). Apostles and prophets are the foundation of the building, and Christ is its cornerstone. Jews and Gentiles are chiseled into living stones and mortar, until the whole group becomes the "dwelling place of God." Such mixed construction is so unique, so full of grace, that Paul gives the structure special recognition, "Landmark Status" as it were.

**Living It Out:** Suppose Paul was to visit Judson, not the physical building, but the people. **1)** Would he find JBC deserving of "landmark status"? Please list why or why not. **2)** What are you and your fellow believers doing to construct a holy dwelling place for God on the historic, foundational blue print in Ephesians 2?

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Next Week: #10 in series  
Ephesians 3:1-6