

Jesus the Cornerstone

April 11, 2019

Ephesians 2:11-17 ESV

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands--

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 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.

The Cross - The Great Leveler and Only Unifier *(of people who are not only opposites but enemies!)*

Romans 6:3-5 ESV

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Galatians 3:27-28 ESV

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:18-20 ESV

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,

Ephesians 4:11-14 ESV

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

- *The purpose of being a member in the Body of Christ is to build up, edify, encourage and strengthen your brothers and sisters in the assembly and community of believers.*
- *It is the responsibility of the ministry gifts to equip, train and provide the community for the members of the Body to fulfil that task.*
- *God provides one and only one path to spiritual maturity (“the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”); through relationship, edification, community and accountability of the Church assembly.*
- *The ministry gifts are to provide instruction in God’s Word that brings a strong foundation and stability in the Truth, so that the individual members are not deceived by false prophets, false teachers, false doctrine and error.*

JUDGMENT BEGINS AT THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

1 Peter 4:17 ESV

17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 ESV

9 *For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

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

12 *Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw--*

13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

16 *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

JESUS IS THE CORNERSTONE TO WHICH ALL THINGS MUST ALIGN AND THE STANDARD BY WHICH ALL THINGS ARE AND WILL BE JUDGED.

Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

1 *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,*

2 *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

- *Jesus is the Cornerstone to which all things must align, He is the one and only foundation, He is the EXACT imprint of God’s nature. Do you want to know who God is, how He thinks, how He responds, how He acts? Jesus is the one and only standard by which all things are judged.*

John 1:1-2 ESV

1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

2 *He was in the beginning with God.*

John 1:14 ESV

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- Do you need to discern whether something is of God or not? Do you need to know the proper interpretation and application of a Bible verse or passage? Compare it to the standard and cornerstone of Jesus. Compare it to His earthly life and ministry.

DISCERNMENT WHICH DISCRIMINATES

Philippians 1:9-10 ESV

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,
10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:15-18 ESV

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

- The Word of God calls us to discernment which discriminates. But that discrimination must be made in love; never in self-justification, never in retaliation, never in selfish ambition, never in self-promotion, never in rivalry, never in a critical spirit.

2 Timothy 2:20-22 ESV

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Ephesians 2:18-22 ESV

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.