



# EPHESIANS

BLESSED • ACCEPTED • BELONG

*“So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.”  
Ephesians 1:6 (NLT)*

## LESSON 7: NO LONGER A STRANGER

Everyone wants to feel like they belong somewhere. Daughters of God, look no further – you belong to the family of God! You once were a stranger, far from God, but when you received Jesus your status changed. You are forever a member of God’s household! With this family membership comes a new purpose, new attitudes, and a whole new lifestyle. This relationship is more than just showing up at church for a Sunday morning service – its Jesus Christ Himself dwelling inside of you. Before you rush into your lesson this week, take time to consider the blessing of being a member of the body of Christ. Thank God for the privilege of being His child, accepted and beloved, along with all your sisters and brothers in the faith.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer.

### **THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE: 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.*

### **This Week’s Memory Verse:**

*Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.  
And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.  
Ephesians 2:20 (NLT)*

1. Last week we studied the unity we have with Christ as well as unity with the body of Christ. This week the Apostle Paul discusses what that truly looks like. Look back on verse 19 and complete the following;
  - a. We are no longer strangers but: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. We are no longer foreigners but: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. According to verse 20, what are we together? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. The foundation for any house must be strong enough to withstand the weight of the structure itself. What insight does Jesus give us regarding His house and being the foundational cornerstone found in Matthew 7:24-27? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Verse 21 tells us that we are becoming Jesus' temple – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 takes this concept even further. According to these verses, what are we as believers in Jesus Christ and how should we view our own lives in light of this fact. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Verse 22 tells us that this temple is now more personal. We are part of a dwelling or home. How does 1 Peter 2:5 describe those who have received Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Peter goes on in 1 Peter 4:10 to state what our purpose is as the body of Christ. What is it and how should this affect your Christian walk? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

## Reflect – Respond – Result

Have you ever thought of yourself as a building stone among many? Better yet, what happens if that stone is missing or doesn't like its location? Sometimes we don't know where we fit within the body of Christ, but God has the perfect place. 1 Corinthians 12:14-18 (NLT) says, "Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it." We each have a place in God's building (or body) but sometimes we don't know our part. We all have gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit to help us in this endeavor. Look up these verses and discuss with your group all the gifts mentioned and which apply to you personally.

Romans 12:4-8: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 12:7-11: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Looking at the above list, do you see any of these gifts in yourself? Often times we fail to see the gifts given to us, however, others are able to see God's gifts evident in our lives. Sometimes we are an encouragement to others without even trying! This is just one example of what God is doing and working out in our lives. This week, listen to what the Spirit says and journal your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_

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