

Belonging Ephesians 2:11-22

1. Belonging (Eph 2:11-22)
2. Assembling (Heb 10.19-25)
3. Caring (Gal 6:1-10)
4. Serving (Mark 9:30-37; 10:35-45)
5. Welcoming (James 2.1-13)
6. Witnessing (Acts 1:1-11)

John Stott:

The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history. On the contrary, the church is God's new community. For his purpose . . . is not just to save individuals and so perpetuate our loneliness, but rather to build up his church, that is, to call out of the world a people for his own glory.

Reminder #1: Separation – What We Once Were (2:11-12)

¹¹Therefore 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— ¹²remember 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.

Reminder #2: Reconciliation – What Christ Has Done (2:13-18)

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by 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, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Reminder #3: Identification – What We Have Now Become (2:19-22)

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones:

The greatest need of the hour is a revived and joyful church.... Unhappy Christians are a poor recommendation for the faith.... The exuberant joy of the early Christians was one of the most potent factors in the spread of Christianity.