

5. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. In v19, “you” refers to the Gentiles, who were once “far away” (v17). How, according to v19, has the gospel changed their circumstances? In Ephesians Paul uses several ideas to describe the church – a family (v19), a body (4:15-16) and, here in v20-22, a building. What does it mean that we are “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets?” We live in what some call a ‘post-truth’ age, in which we’re encouraged to choose our ‘truth’. Why might we be tempted to ‘change our foundations as a church? What is it about the way the church has been formed that means we choose not to do so? Looking to v20b, what does it mean that the church is built “with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone”? And how would you expect this to play out in the life of a local church? In vv21-22 we come across this much-repeated idea in Ephesians of us being “in him” (that is, in Christ Jesus). How does being “in him” affect our relationships with each other in the church? If God has joined and built us together, how should this influence our commitment to: (a) each other in the church family (b) attendance at church services and meetings? How does God now relate to his church (v22)?

6. What personal needs has the Holy Spirit exposed during this study? How can we pray with you about those needs? Consider memorizing 1 Peter 2:9-10.



Sunday, October 13, 2024

**A Strong Foundation**  
**8. The Church**  
**1 Peter 2:9-10**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of His body, the Church, which includes all persons, living or dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith. The Church is the people of God, baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body, who are to live in Christ's abiding presence until His return.

**The Church is:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Ephesians 4:4-6
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – Ephesians 1:1. 1 Peter 2:9-10
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Revelation 7:9-10
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ -- Ephesians 2:19-22

## Study Guide

For the week of October 13, 2024

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “church”? If we consider the church as something bigger than a local body of believers, then what is the church? In what ways is Christ the head of the church?

2. Read Ephesians 4:4-6. What are some things all believers have in common? How do those things serve to unite us? Why is it so hard for Christians to stay united? Are there issues where we must have agreement? Are there issues where we can have a difference of opinion? Read John 17:20-21. Who is Jesus praying for? What is he asking the Father to do? Why does that matter?

3. Read Ephesians 1:1. Who is Paul writing to in this book? How does he describe them? What does it mean to be a saint? What does it mean to be “faithful in Christ Jesus”? Do you ever think of yourself as a saint? Why or why not? Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. What does it mean to be holy? In what ways is the church meant to be holy? What in these two verses tells us that we should be holy?

4. Read Revelation 7:9-10. What is the setting in this passage? Who is gathered? What are they doing? What does this tell us about the church? How do all those groups wind up there? How does that relate to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)?