

Made Alive for God's Dwelling Place in the Spirit (Ephesians 2)

*In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of
God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:22)*

I. The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation for the Building up of the Church (Eph. 1:15-23)

A. The church, God's mystery

1. God's purpose, His counsel and good pleasure –
the church (Ac. 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:32)
2. By His grace God has made His mystery known to us
(Eph. 1:7, 9)
3. According to His will we were chosen for the church
(Eph. 1:4-5, 11)
4. God works all things according to the counsel of His
eternal purpose (Eph. 1:11; 3:9)

B. God revealing His mystery through the Spirit

1. Revealed and kept by the Spirit
(Eph. 1:17; 3:3-5; 1Ti. 3:9; 2Ti. 1:14)
2. Knowing the mystery and guarding it through the word
(Ro. 16:25-26; 1P. 1:10-13; 1Ti. 6:20; Rev. 22:9)

II. From Death to Life

A. Our life in slavery (Eph. 2:1-3)

1. Fallen man is unsuitable for God's plan
(Ro. 1:18-21, 29-32; Ro. 3:10-18; Eph. 2:12;
Ro 5:12; Jn 8:44)
2. The old man is totally against God's purpose
(Ro. 8:7-8; Ga. 5:19-21; Jas. 4:1, 4; Col. 3:5-7)

B. Our life in freedom (Eph. 2:4-5)

1. God is rich in mercy and has great love
(Jn. 3:16; Titus 3:4-6; Jd. 24-25; 1P. 1:3; 2Co. 1:3;
Ro. 8:15-16; 1Co. 15:10a)
2. Being made alive together with Christ and saved by grace
(Col. 2:13-14; Eph. 1:7-8; Jn. 5:24;
Ro. 8:10-11; Ac. 3:15; 1Ti. 1:13-17)
3. Freedom – being one with the crucified Christ
(Ga. 5:1, 13, 17; Ro. 12:2; 1P. 1:13-19;
Eph. 4:17-24; Col. 3:8-11; Ga. 2:19b;
1Co. 1:18, 23-24; 1Co. 2:2)

C. We are living in Christ (Eph. 2:6)

1. A wonderful position – raised and seated in the heavenly places (Rev. 1:17-18; Eph. 1:21-22;
Phil. 2:9-11; Col. 3:1-3; Ps. 121:1-4; Ro. 8:28;
2Ti. 1:12; Ps. 144:2)
2. Our fellowship with the ascended Christ
(Jn. 15:4-5, 7; 1Co. 6:17; 2Co. 10:3-6; Jn. 17:21-23)

III. The Work of Christ (Eph. 2:7-10)

A. The work he has accomplished is the foundation for the work he is doing today (Eph. 2:6; Phi. 2:1-9)

1. Being raised together – walking in the newness of life (Ro. 6:4)
2. He ascended for the work of the ministry – to edify the body of Christ (Eph. 4:7-14)
3. Having become the Spirit (Jn. 20:17, 22; 1Co. 15:45; Ex. 30:22-29)

B. We are his workmanship

1. Creation and His workmanship (Ro. 1:20; Eph. 2:10)
2. Not the work of men (1Co. 2:4-5; Dt. 4:28)
3. Showing the exceeding riches of His grace (Eph. 2:7)
4. God's work – building His church (Eph. 4:12; Ne. 4:9-11; 5:16; 6:9, 16)

C. Walking in good works prepared beforehand

1. According to sound doctrine (2Ti. 1:13; Titus 1:9; 2:1)
2. According to grace (Eph. 2:7, 8; Titus 2:11-14; Ac. 20:32)
3. Redeeming the time, setting priorities (Eph. 5:15-16; 1P. 4:2; Lk. 2:48-49)

IV. Having been Brought Near by the Blood of Christ (Eph. 2:11-13)

A. Living in the self

1. Aliens from the promise in the Spirit (Eph. 2:12; 4:18; Ga. 3:10)
2. Without hope and without God (Eph. 2:12)
3. Our iniquities separate us from our God (Is. 59:2; 43:24)

B. He suffered death on the cross for our salvation

(Mt. 26:67; 27:26-31)

1. Despised, acquainted with grief, obedient (Is. 53:3; Phi. 2:8)
2. His blood was shed for us (Lk. 22:20)

C. Redeemed (purchased) by His precious blood

1. From sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
2. From the world's worthless way of life (1 P. 1:18-19; Ga. 1:4)
3. From dead works (He. 9:14)
4. From the law (Ga. 3:13; 4:5)
5. From all kind of separation (Eph. 2:11-12, 14)
6. He is the redeemer of the church, His body (Ac. 20:28; Eph. 5:23b)

D. Draw near by confessing – the access is free!

(He. 10:19)

1. Not covering up transgression and rebellion, but confessing (Ps. 32:3-5; 51:4-7)
2. Cleansing and forgiveness (He. 9:22)
3. God is faithful (Lk. 15:21; 1Jn. 1:9; Is. 1:18)
4. Crucified together with Christ– it is no longer I who live (Ga. 2:19-21; He. 10:22)

V. Peace through the Cross for the One New Man

(Eph. 2:14-15)

A. He is our peace

1. God's essence and nature is peace (1.Co. 14:33; Ro. 15:33; 2.Co. 13:11)
2. Jesus Christ and nothing else should be our peace

B. He made Jews and Gentiles one

1. He created the two into one new man (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; Ro. 12:5)
2. By breaking down the middle wall of partition –the enmity (Ro. 8:7; Ga. 5:19-20)
3. Having abolished in his flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances (Col. 2:14; Ga. 3:13; Col. 1:20)
4. The old man and our flesh have been terminated on the cross (Ga. 5:24; Ro. 6:6; Eph. 4:22)

C. Laying hold of this reality and experiencing it for the perfection of his church

1. Through our prayer (Ps. 122:6-9)
2. Pursuing peace (1.P. 3:11; He. 12:14; 2.Ti. 2:22; Eph. 4:3; Ro. 14:19)
3. Choosing the way of peace (Ro. 3:17; Lk. 1:79)

VI. The Oneness of the Body of Christ through the Cross (Eph. 2:16-18)

A. Reconciled in one body through the cross

1. Every human division and enmity was overcome through the cross, including the one between Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 2:14-15; Ga. 3:28; Col. 3:11)
2. The one body is expressed through one church per locality
3. Our position as the church in a locality includes all believers in that locality

B. The oneness of the body of Christ can only be experienced through the Spirit

1. In the natural man this oneness is not possible, but in spirit it can be experienced (Eph. 4:3-4; 1.Co. 12:13)
2. The characteristic of the spirit is life and peace, the characteristic of the flesh however is enmity and strife (Ro. 8:6; Ga. 5:19-23)
3. Through brothers and sisters which we seemingly do not get along well with we learn not to live in our old nature but to walk in the new creation (1.Co. 12:15-18; 2.Co. 5:16-17)

VII. One Household, one Foundation and one Corner Stone (Eph. 2:19-20)

A. Members of the household of God

1. In the household of God: no strangers and sojourners
2. Ministering it among yourselves as stewards of the varied grace of God (Eph. 3:2, 6-10; 4:7; 1.P. 4:10)
3. Giving food at the proper time (Lk. 12:42-44)

B. The practical building up in the church life in each locality

1. The nature of the church is oneness (Jn. 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6; Ac. 4:32)
2. Division – condemned by God (1.Co. 1:10-13)
3. Oneness of the children of God – through the church in that locality

C. On the foundation of the apostles and prophets

1. Based on the word of God, not on traditions and ideas
2. Abiding in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles (Ac. 2:42; Rev. 21:14)
3. Knowing Christ as the corner stone (1.P. 2:4-8)
4. Let each one take heed how he builds upon it (1.Co. 3:10-13)

VIII. We are being fitted together in Him, growing into a Holy Temple in the Lord and being built up into a Dwelling Place of God in Spirit

- A. God's dwelling place** (Gen. 28:16-17; Ex. 25:8-9; Eph. 2:21; Rev. 21:1-3)
- B. The church, the house of the living God** (1.Co. 3:16-17; 1.Ti. 3:15)
- C. A life in spirit for the building up of God's dwelling place in spirit** (Eph. 2:22; Ga. 5:25)
 - 1. Who is the Spirit and how do we receive (more of) him? (1.Co. 15:45; Jn. 1:12; 3:3, 5-6; 6:63)
 - 2. All shall know him (2.Co. 13:5; He. 8:10-11; Phi. 3:10)
 - 3. You follow me! (Mt. 4:18-19; Jn. 21:22)