

Jesus Christ: The Cornerstone of Hospitality

Ephesians 2:11-22

“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. 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. 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.”

(Ephesians 2:11–22)

Key verse: *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”* (Ephesians 2:13)

INTRODUCTION (pick one):

Have you ever been a recipient of someone else’s hospitality? What was your experience and how did you feel?

Have you ever faced challenges when trying to show hospitality in church? Share your experience.

DISCUSS:

- 1. In Ephesians 2:11-12, the Apostle Paul reminds the Ephesian Christians about what their lives were like before they came to faith in Christ. Why do you think he did that? Why is it important for us to remember what our lives were like before knowing Christ?**

Ephesians 2:13 is the hinge on which the entire passage turns. It is all about what Christ has done for us. He says, “*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*”

- 2. Read Ephesians 2:14-22, what did Jesus’ victory over death on the cross accomplish for us? How has His victory made it possible for us to be welcome to God and to one another?**

- 3. Jesus’ victory on the cross has made it possible for us to be welcome to God. In what way does this welcome transform us?**

- 4. In what ways does knowing what God has done for us in Christ motivate us to show hospitality to others?**

RESPOND & PRAY:

- 5. What is one step you and/or your cell group can take to grow in hospitality in a practical way? Pray together for the Lord’s empowerment in this.**