

God's Vision for His Church

Bulletin Outline

The Church (*Ephesians 2:17-22*)

1. We are Citizens in God's Kingdom
2. We are God's Household
3. We are God's Temple

God's goal for His Church: Maturity (*Ephesians 4:13-16*)

1. Theological Stability
2. Established in God's Love

Growth and maturity happens in community. (*1 Corinthians 15:11, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 22:24-25, Philippians 3:17*)

How does the Church mature?

1. God builds up His Church through godly character.
2. God builds up His Church by giving us Spiritual Gifts.
3. God builds up His Church by enabling us to speak the truth in love.

If you belong to Christ, you belong to His church. You're not just a spectator, you're a citizen, a family member, a temple stone. You've been given gifts by the risen Christ. And the church only grows healthy when every one of us is using those gifts to build up one another in love.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Was there anything from the sermon that you found encouraging, challenging, or thought-provoking this week?
2. The sermon began by addressing the individualistic idea of spirituality being a private thing. Why do you think that mindset is so appealing in our culture? Have you ever felt that pull in your own life?
3. In Ephesians 2:19–22 Paul says we are citizens, members of God’s household, and stones in God’s temple. Which of those pictures stands out to you most, and why?
4. Being a citizen of God’s kingdom means belonging to something bigger than ourselves. In what ways does belonging to Christ’s kingdom challenge the way we usually think about personal freedom and independence?
5. The image of God’s household (Eph. 2:19) shows church as a family. What do you find beautiful about that picture? What do you find difficult about it?
6. Paul says we are being built into a temple for God’s Spirit (Eph. 2:21–22). How does that shape the way you think about what happens when the church gathers?
7. God’s goal is not just that people believe in Jesus, but that His church grows into maturity (Eph. 4:13). How would you describe the difference between spiritual “immaturity” and maturity in your own walk?
8. Paul prays that believers would be rooted and established in God’s love (Eph. 3:16–19). How have you personally experienced God’s love as an anchor in hard seasons? Where do you still struggle to rest in that love?

9. Growth happens in community, not in isolation. Who has God used in your life to help you grow in faith? How might He be calling you now to invest in others' growth?

10. The sermon ended with the call to use our gifts and to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15–16). What do you sense God has gifted you to do in the body? What might it look like for you to step more fully into that this season?