

1. What stood out to you from the sermon?
2. As you think about the big ideas from the last two sermons (we are saints, chosen children of God who have been redeemed, reconciled, and had his grace richly poured on us... we are his masterpieces), how has the truth of what you have heard been shaping you in your walk with the Lord?

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

3. What stands out to you as you read through the passage?
4. Do you think of yourself by your birthright as far away from God? *(note, there is an interesting distinction here between dead in our sins (2:1) and being far away. This passage is not talking as much about sin condition, as in Gentiles being far away by birthright from God. It is still an effect that came about because of the fall, but the point in this passage is not to just repeat 2:1-10, but to talk about further divides that Christ has overcome)*
5. What do you think of what you heard in the sermon about Gentiles being unable to own land, enter the inner areas of the temple, and being outside the key covenant promises? How should this shape how we see ourselves before God?
6. When Paul speaks of us coming near in verses 13-17, he is talking about Gentile believers joining in the closeness that Jews had. What does it mean to be near to God? Is it enough? Why or why not?
7. What are some ways that we settle for “nearness” instead of being found *in Christ*?
8. What is the Gospel response to how you answered question 7?
9. What are the images used in verses 18-22 about our status in Christ? How do these build on what we saw in the previous two weeks (chosen masterpiece saints)?
10. Do you see yourself in your own strength as utterly separated from by birth, by sin, and any other standard you could make a claim of righteousness by?
11. What does the Gospel say to how you responded to question 10?
12. What does it mean that we are being built up as part of the temple, with Christ as the Cornerstone?
13. How should your answer to question 12 affect how you see yourself among other believers?
14. Take some time to end in prayer by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.