

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Church as Building”

1 Peter 2:4-8, Ephesians 2:20-22

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Passage Setting: 1 Peter is written by the apostle Peter. He is the one who struggled with his impulsive behavior in the Gospels and denied Jesus 3 times. But after the resurrection, he became the spokesperson for the church in the beginning of Acts. This letter is written to persecuted Christians with a Jewish background. But the lessons from this book are not to be applied ethnically but spiritually for all Christians.

Ephesians is a letter that Paul wrote to the Ephesian church. We know from Acts 22 that the church was dear to him, and he left his beloved disciple, Timothy, there to pastor the church. In this letter, we see a theology of election, salvation, grace, and church in the first three chapters, and we are near the end of Paul’s words regarding the church.

Summary: The church is living stones built up as a spiritual house. We are alive in Christ and joined together, built on the foundation of the Scriptures and indwelt by the Spirit, with Christ as our cornerstone.

Central Truth: “The church is a spiritual house, a dwelling place of the Spirit, with Christ as our cornerstone.”

Sermon Points:

1. How are we a building?
2. Why is this significant?
3. How is this possible?

Opening Question

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1. What do you think of when we talk about the church?

(Answers may vary.)

Paul and Peter talk about the church. Although the church is not a physical building, we are like a building as the church of God.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-8, Ephesians 2:20-22

2. What are some lessons you can take away from being called a building?

(We are called to “come to him,” not just once or weekly. We should come to him over and over again as the source of our deliverance.

We are living stones. We make up the building of the church. Also, we are alive in our hearts. We have been resurrected by Christ.

We are joined together. This means that we are connected to one another in the church. It’s painful when one piece is missing.

This also means that we are supporting one another. We are called to minister, encourage, admonish, and love one another.

Also, we are being built together. It’s a process. We are not a finished product. God is growing us personally and corporately... in depth and in breadth.

We are also built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets- referring to God’s Word.

We are the temple of God, the dwelling place of His Holy Spirit. The same spirit who created all things, spoke through the prophets, resurrected Jesus from the grave, and transforms souls is in us today.)

3. What are some ways you can come back to our foundation and cornerstone?

(Since our foundation is the Word of God, we are called to meditate on His Word day and night. We should read, listen to, study, and memorize the Word. We don’t seek knowledge alone, but we seek God. We endeavor to discover His heart. Also, we are called to enjoy Christ in all of Scriptures. We don’t just see sin and brokenness, but we encounter the healing and grace of Christ.

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We seek after Christ, because He is the Cornerstone. He is what defines us and determines our direction, purpose, and life. He is the one who sets our life on His mercy and grace. We meditate on His person and work. We discover the gospel in all of Scripture. We learn more about how the whole Scripture points to Christ and His life, death, and resurrection.

We also encounter Christ with one another. We see and understand Christ better together with all our different perspectives, gifts, and insight. We need one another to grow in the Lord.)

Final Thoughts: *Being called a building as a church teaches us many lessons. This is all found upon God's Word and Christ's person and work. As we draw near to Christ, we draw near to one another.*