
Christian Community, God's Habitation

Description

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Ephesians 2:11-22

Paul reminded his readers that their background had been one of hopelessness and sinful lifestyles outside of Christ. However, now they were genuinely united in the body of Christ and near to God, because of the blood of Christ. Both Jews and Gentiles have received reconciliation and peace; the hostility that had been there had come to an end. The believers were now members of God's household, and He inhabited their lives and faith in Christ.

In the Old Testament, the temple was God's dwelling place. In contrast, Paul explained that under God's new covenant, deliverance has come to all who respond to God's call. The Christian community now has God's abiding presence. They literally enjoy God's habitation. This habitation is through the Holy Spirit. "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-20).

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