

Have you ever known anyone who quit fellowshiping at Church who claimed that they were hurt by the Church? What might you say to help them find their way back?

5. How does Ephesians 2:19-22 help you to better understand the nature and function of the Church?
  
6. Why are the Church and Church leadership not authorized to alter or “reinterpret” the Word of God to accommodate “alternative lifestyles” or non-Christian religions?

If the Church was viewed primarily as a “dwelling place for man” rather than a “dwelling place for God” can you see how all of this could change? Why then, is it important to remain fixed in our view of Ephesians 2:22?

7. What is Jesus Christ doing right now to prepare the Church for Himself (Ephesians 5:25-27). Is this ever a painful process? In what way?
  
8. How has this study helped you to better understand the Church? Take time in your group to pray for the Church.

I. B. 1. Moving. 2. Intimately related. 3. Garden, fruit, built, workmanship.  
4. Support, proclaim. 5. Dwelling, innermost.

II. B. 1. Witness, resurrection. 2. Praise, prayer, communion. C. Anthropocentric, Theocentric.

III. A. 1. People. B. 1. Stone, measured. 2. Foundation. C. 1. Architect. D. 1. Temple.

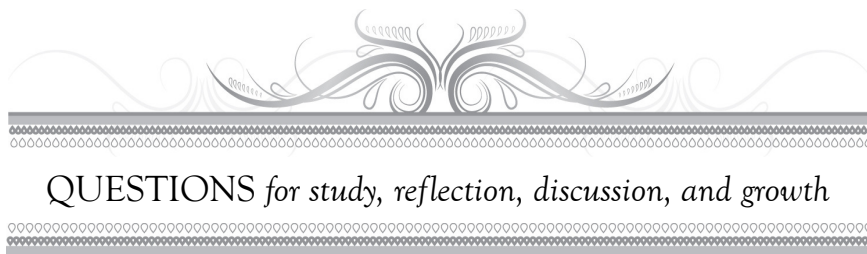


## Lesson 10: BUILDING THE TEMPLE

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 2:19-22 | January 31-February 1, 2009

- I. What in the World is the Church?
  - A. Misconceptions that mislead God’s people...
    1. The Church is a destination.
    2. The Church is a charity.
    3. The Church is a community organizer.

Jesus said “I will build my church...” (Matthew 16:18). *His Work and His Word* determine what the Church is!
  - B. Metaphors that make us think...
    1. *The Body of Christ* (Ephesians 1:22-23). We are the people through which God is \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.
    2. *The Bride of Christ* (Ephesians 5:25-27). We are the people who are \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
    3. *God’s Field and God’s Building* (1 Corinthians 3:9). We are God’s \_\_\_\_\_ cultivated to bring forth \_\_\_\_\_. We are \_\_\_\_\_ by God; we are His \_\_\_\_\_.
    4. *The Pillar and the Ground of Truth* (1 Timothy 3:15). We are the people who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God’s truth.



QUESTIONS for study, reflection, discussion, and growth

Read Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 2:11-22, Acts 2:42-47, and review all the metaphors for the Church listed in your notes.

1. Why is it important to stick with biblical descriptions and definitions of the Church?

Do you think the average "person on the street" has any real concept of what the Church is? What about many people in the Church?

2. Many people these days say they are against "organized religion." What do you think they mean by this?

Do you think they resent being under authority? Why, or why not?

Do you think they are uneasy in the company of God's people, or they are afraid of being convicted of sin? Why, or why not?

3. In its essence, is the Church an organization or an organism?

4. How would you respond to a person who says, "I love God, but I hate the Church?"

5. The Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16). We are the \_\_\_\_\_ place of God—the \_\_\_\_\_ sanctuary.

II. Why do we gather together as the church?

A. Some "not" reasons . . .

Not to hear good sermons. Not to enjoy good worship. Not to learn in a Sunday School class. Not to build relationships with other people. Not to be comforted in the face of trials. Not to identify with a certain style or segment of the culture.

B. We gather together as the Church . . .

- 1. to \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ;
2. to lift up His name in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_;
3. to give glory to the One who purchased us with His own blood.

C. The Church is not to be \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_!

III. How has Jesus built His Church? (Ephesians 2:19-22).

A. The Fellowship of the Church [Who are the members?] (Ephesians 2:19).

1. One \_\_\_\_\_—fellow citizens, Jewish and Gentile believers.

B. The Foundation of the Church: Who established it and who holds it together? (Ephesians 2:20)

- 1. One \_\_\_\_\_ by which all others are \_\_\_\_\_—Jesus Christ.
2. One \_\_\_\_\_—the apostles and prophets.

C. The Formation of the Church: How is it being built, and how are the "living stones" placed in the structure? (Ephesians 2:21)

1. One \_\_\_\_\_ who fits the living stones in place. The Church is a work in progress (Acts 2:47; Romans 11:25).

D. The Function of the Church: What is the purpose of the Church? (Ephesians 2:22)

1. One \_\_\_\_\_ which is God's dwelling place.

E. The Future of the Church (Revelation 21:3).