



BUT NOW: YOU BELONG

A Devotional Journey Through Ephesians 2:19–22

KNOW — Ephesians Growth Journey

Scripture: Ephesians 2:19–22

1. SO THEN... YOU BELONG

Paul has spent much of Ephesians 2 reminding us of what was once true:

- Far from God
- Separated
- Strangers
- Without hope

Then came:

BUT GOD.

And later:

BUT NOW.

Christ changed the reality.

Verse 19 begins with:

“So then...”

Paul now shows us what life looks like on the other side of **BUT NOW**.

The Message:

You belong.

2. YOU ARE NO LONGER A STRANGER

Paul says:

“You are no longer strangers and aliens...”

Instead, we are:

- Fellow citizens with the saints
- Members of the household of God
- Part of God's family

Those who once stood **outside** now **belong**.

God didn't merely allow outsiders to visit.

He made them family.

Think About It

Have you ever been somewhere where you were technically welcome but still felt like you didn't belong?

Sometimes we approach God that way.

- We have been brought near—but still think like outsiders.
- We have access—but still behave like guests.

Remember

Don't carry an outsider mentality into a place where God says you belong.

3. ALIGN WITH THE CORNERSTONE

Paul pictures God's people as a building.

Jesus Christ is the:

CORNERSTONE

The cornerstone establishes the building's alignment.

Everything else must line up with it.

Our spiritual lives work the same way.

We don't ask Jesus to adjust Himself to:

- Our preferences
- Our desires
- Our opinions
- Our plans
- Our culture
- Our definition of truth

Instead:

We allow our lives to be aligned with Him.

Ask Yourself

Is there an area of my life where I am asking Christ to fit what I want rather than allowing Him to reshape what I want?

Remember

Christ doesn't adjust Himself to fit what we're building. What we're building must align with Christ.

4. WE ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER

Paul repeatedly emphasizes:

Together.

- Joined together
- Built together

God isn't merely working on individuals.

He is forming a people.

Some of God's work in us happens through relationships.

People can:

- Encourage us
- Challenge us
- Correct us
- Support us
- Stretch us
- Test our patience

Even our differences can become part of God's construction process.

Think About It

Do I view other believers primarily as people who should make church comfortable for me—or as people God may use to help shape me?

Remember

God doesn't only build with people who naturally fit together. Christ can join very different people into something greater than any one of them.

5. YOU CAN BELONG AND STILL BE GROWING

Paul says the whole structure:

“grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

This is encouraging.

The building belongs to God...

and it is still growing.

You belong to God...

and you're still growing.

The person beside you belongs to God...

and they're still growing too.

Remember

God can fully claim you while He's still constructing you.

Growth takes time.

- Give yourself grace.
- Give others grace.
- Remain teachable.
- Keep responding to God.

Don't confuse:

Unfinished $\neq$ Abandoned

Hold This Thought

Don't mistake “under construction” for “abandoned by the Builder.”

6. THE GOAL IS HIS PRESENCE

Why is God building?

Paul says:

“...to become a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

That's the destination.

God isn't merely creating a community where people can belong.

He is forming a people among whom **His presence can be known.**

The Church is more than a building we attend.

The Church is a people God inhabits.

Growth Question

If God's Spirit dwells among us, what should people increasingly experience when they encounter us?

- Love

- Grace
- Truth
- Peace
- Holiness
- Compassion
- Unity

The character of the One who lives among us should increasingly become visible **through us**.

7. LOOK HOW FAR GRACE BROUGHT US

Paul's message shows the transformation:

THEN	BUT NOW
Strangers	Family
Far away	Brought near
Separated	Joined together
Without God	A dwelling place for God

That's what grace can do.

Grace doesn't simply change our position.

Grace changes our identity, our relationships, and our purpose.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Where do I still struggle to believe that I truly belong to God's family?
 2. What area of my life needs to come into greater alignment with Christ?
 3. Who might God be using to shape or stretch me right now?
 4. Where do I need to extend more patience to someone who is still growing?
 5. If God's Spirit dwells among His people, what evidence of His character should become more visible through my life this week?
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THIS WEEK

Choose **one** word and practice it intentionally.

BELONG

Receive your place in God's family.

ALIGN

Bring one area of your life into agreement with Christ.

CONNECT

Invest intentionally in another believer.

GROW

Respond to something God is developing in you.

REFLECT

Let one characteristic of God become more visible through you.

Choose one. Practice it intentionally this week.

PRAYER

Father, thank You that through Christ I am no longer a stranger. Thank You for giving me a place among Your people and making me part of Your household.

Help me align my life with Jesus, the Cornerstone. Show me where my thinking, desires, priorities, or actions need adjustment.

Teach me to value the people You are building alongside me. Give me patience with others and humility about the places where I am still growing.

Continue Your work in us. Join us together, grow us, and let Your Spirit dwell among us in such a way that Your character becomes visible through our lives.

Thank You that **I belong**.