

## Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	<b>Rooted</b>
Sermon Title	No longer strangers
Bible Texts	Ephesians 2:19-22
Date	April 21, 2024

### CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Have you ever been outside the “group” and then later invited in?
- Question 2: In what ways is a family like a building?
- Question 3: What do you consider the most important things to serve as the “foundation” for a family that is stable and healthy?

### EQUIP – Understanding God’s word

The “cornerstones” for a large building absolutely *must* be right, because the entire building rises from its foundation. The “chief cornerstone” is the one against which the others are measured.

- Question 4: In verse 19, what words described our position before we knew Christ? What words describe us after we came to faith?
- Question 5: Consider the context leading this statement (2:11-18). How does this further describe our standing before God?
- Question 6: What do you think Paul is emphasizing when he describes these new believers as being fellow citizens with the saints? What are we citizens of?
- Question 7: How do you perceive being a member of God’s household as family?
- Question 8: We are both citizens and members of God’s household. What is the difference? What does each word tell us about our position before God?
- Question 9: A family—a household—needs a dwelling. In the building that Paul describes in these verses, what is the relationship between the teachings of the apostles and prophets, ourselves as Christians, and Jesus our Lord?
- Question 10: In what three ways is Jesus pivotal in this building?
- Question 11: What did Paul mean when he said that the church was “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets”? Why do you think this was important to say?
- Question 12: What had the prophets contributed to this foundation? What was their message?
- Question 13: What is the significance of Christ being the “chief cornerstone”? How does that make him distinct from the foundation laid by others?



- Question 14: What metaphor does Paul use in verse 21-22 to describe our relationship to Christ and to each other? What does it teach us about the church and our relationship to other believers?
- Question 15: Why do we still need to be “built together to become a dwelling” for God? What part of the construction is still incomplete?
- Question 16: How is a temple different from a building?
- Question 17: The temple has a foundation, Christ is its chief cornerstone, it is all held together in him, it is a holy temple where God lives, we are that building. Which of these statements challenges you the most?

### DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 18: Do you feel more like a stranger or someone who fully and unconditionally belongs to God's family? How can a deep sense of belonging affect your emotional state and your behaviors? What are some ways that you can remind yourself of this?
- Question 19: Why should we do life together as a church? What would that look like?
- Question 20: What is a way you can help Calvary Church to be “built together” this week?
- Question 21: We are becoming a dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. What can you do to nurture the life-giving work of the Holy Spirit throughout the week?