

## Ephesians Bible Study

### Lesson 8 Questions/ Ephesians 2:20-22

#### Foundations of Unity

**Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through this week's lesson.**

Have you ever been tempted to compromise truth because you wanted to avoid conflict? If so what did you learn from the situation? What would you say was the primary factor that led you to want to compromise? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever spoken truth in the wrong way? How did you know you were wrong? Consider I Peter 3:15-16. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Read Ephesians 2:20-22.**

In our verses for this week Paul continues his teaching on unity in the body and uses the metaphor of a building to explain key truths regarding the church. In doing so, he provides his readers with invaluable truth for discerning the basis for true Christian unity.

1. What role does a foundation play in a building? Use Matt. 7:24-27 to help.

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2. Paul says in verse 20 that the church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. Another way of saying this is that God laid His foundation through the apostles and the prophets. Using these verses describe the role of a true prophet of God in the Bible. (Deut. 18:15, 18-19, 2 Chron. 18:12-13, I Cor. 14:3) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The 12 apostles had a similar, but broader role than the prophets. Yet both were used by God to reveal the truth that became the Old and New Testaments. According to these verses what criteria had to be met for a man to be considered an apostle?

Acts. 1:22, I Cor. 9:1, 15:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 3:14, Acts 1:24, 9:15, Gal.1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 10:1-2, Acts 2:43, 5:12, I Cor. 12:12 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Keeping the above criteria in mind, what would you say to someone who believed in modern-day apostles? How is this belief dangerous? Can you think of false doctrine that has seeped into the church through this belief?

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5. The foundation that the apostles and prophets laid through their teaching all pointed to the precious cornerstone, the principal stone which held the entire building together. (Is. 28:16, Matt. 5:17) According to verse 20-21 who is the cornerstone and what is his role in the building? (See also Eph. 4:15-16, Col. 2:7, I Peter 2:4-5) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Christ is referred to as the cornerstone in various passages of Scripture, and believers are referred to as “living stones” in the building that God is constructing. According to vs 21 what type of building is God constructing

and why is this significant? How does God intend to use the building? (Eph. 2:21-22, I Peter 2:5, I Cor. 3:10-16) \_\_\_\_\_

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7. In verses 20-22 we see that what God is doing with this temple is not merely an individual thing. He is joining us **together** to Christ and to one another. One author said, *“It is true that unity is not a matter of organization, but of sharing of the common life and tasks of the body...it behooves all Christians to take warning of the danger of individualistic Christian service, and to consider seriously the things that hinder the expression of that common life and fulfilling of tasks.”* With this quote in mind, what types of attitudes and behaviors *“hinder the expression of our common life”* in Christ as one body? (Phil. 2:1-3, Phil. 4:2, Luke 6:42, Eph. 4:1-3, 13-15, James 3:17) \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\*\*Bonus Question\*\*\*

An additional passage of Scripture that sheds more light on the concept of the temple that God is building is found in I Tim. 3:15. Here we see Paul painting a picture more of the local church, and the role each individual body of Christ plays in upholding the truth. From what you know about the book of Timothy, what areas of church life was Paul especially concerned about when he wrote this verse? (I Tim. 1-3) \_\_\_\_\_

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