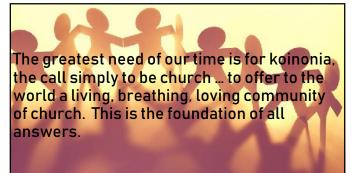


DISPLACED PEOPLES

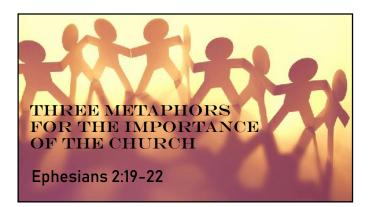
People with no home/wanderers
People not received by other nations
Refugees/asylum seekers

DESIRE FOR ACCEPTANCE

- Citizenship is a sign of acceptance
 A new passport is a symbol of belonging
- The church as the body of Christ speaks to the heart of this issue



Jim Wallis





'STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS'

- Strangers xenoi (xenophobia fear of the stranger – dislike or prejudice against people from other countries)
- Sojourner paroikos resident alien, landed immigrant

Sumpolites – 'with the same polity'
Paul speaks as one having Roman citizenship

CITIZENSHIP

FULL MEMBERSHIP

- Speaks of full acceptance in the Kingdom of God
- Legal standing
- Part of the commonwealth
- No longer strangers







- we are part of the family of Got
- Adopted as his sons & daughters

Speaks to more than legal standing
We are now part of the family
We are now God's children

AN IMAGE OF INTIMACY

• We are linked together as brothers & sisters in faith

- Not separated but connected
- We are linked together as an anchor's chain

III. TEMPLE

built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.







A DIFFERENT TEMPLE

- Not made of physical stones but as a new humanity with Christ as the cornerstone (v20)
- The preached word as the foundation (v20)
- The structure as the people of God

INDIVIDUAL STONES JOINED TOGETHER

- "Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood," (1 Peter 2:4-8)
- Described by Paul as: 'joined together'; 'growing into a holy temple'; 'built together'; 'a dwelling place';

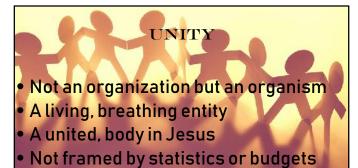
GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

- No longer in a specific place but in God's people around the earth – the church
- 'temple' is a communal image depicting the presence of God in us as a people



INCLUSION

- These three metaphors speak to inclusion not exclusion
- Images of belonging and acceptance
- All are enabled to become part of God's family

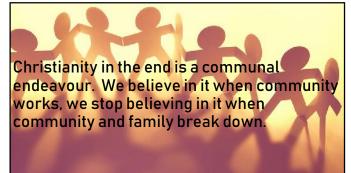


BELONGING

- The church as a community offers a place of belonging
- The world is looking for belonging/ acceptance
- We have something important to offer the world

THE CENTRALITY OF CHURCH

- The church is not simply an option for believers – it is central in our journey of faith
- The journey is collective not simply individualistic
- This speaks to the new trend of 'nones' – those who simply reject Christ's church



Ronald Rolheiser