

Get Involved

Ephesians 2:11-22

Note: These questions are recommendations. You don't need to answer all of them and you may include some of your own questions.

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

► We _____ the _____ to know God's _____

Notes:

1. "Therefore" in verse 11, connects this passage to what has gone before--in particular Paul's prayer in 1:15-22. In that prayer Paul prays that we might know God's "incomparably great power for us..." (vs.19). In 2:1-10, Paul talks about how God's power "made us alive with Christ" (5), "raised us up with Christ" (6), and "seated us with him in the heavenly realms" (6). He is talking about this power bringing about *individual and internal* change. Now, in 2:11-22, he is talking about this power bringing about *corporate and relational* change specifically in the church. According to this passage why is the church so important? Why do we need the church?

► We'll experience God's power as we're _____
_____ in the church

Notes:

2. How involved should we be in the church? Look at verses 19-22. Notice the three metaphors – "fellow citizens", "members of God's household" and "a temple...in which God lives..." What do these metaphors teach us about how involved God intends us to be in the church? What are some tests of whether or not we are involved enough? [Helpful hint: this goes beyond being involved in some kind of a church program.]

3. Why do some Christians avoid intense involvement in the church? Here's one example to get you started: Sometimes people avoid intense involvement in the church because they've been hurt in the past; and they see people in the church mistreating each other. According to verse 14-17, how does God destroy the hostility between us and bring peace and unity to Christians? Explain. How does right thinking about the cross enable us to get intensely involved in the church?

Any other thoughts on why some Christians avoid intense involvement in the church? Again, how does the cross—the grace of God—address this?

Do you have any positive personal experiences you can share? How has God changed your heart in this area?

► We can and will be _____ if we understand the _____

Notes:

4. In light of this portion of God's Word, how does God want you to respond? How can we pray for one another?

- Pray that we'd grow in the areas discussed above. Try to be specific.
- Pray that we'd build each other up in the Gospel; that we'd grow in humble, genuine holiness; and that Christ would be glorified.
- Pray we'd have a greater love for our neighbors, that we'd have opportunities and the courage to share the Gospel, and that they'd find rest in Christ and follow him.
- Pray for a determination to serve each other especially in times of need.
- Pray that we'd grow in our desire to worship God consistently with our community on Sunday mornings and throughout our lives.
- Pray our children would love God and others and that he'd use us to help them.
- Pray that God would raise more leaders in your Crowded House and that your Crowded House would mature to the point of starting an additional Crowded House.
- Pray for courage, selflessness, and wisdom in this.
- Pray that we would be so overwhelmed by God's sacrificial generosity toward us that we would also be sacrificially generous.