

## FITTED TOGETHER IN JESUS

### Part 19 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:21-22 NKJV **SLIDE**

... In whom [*Jesus*] the whole building being [fitly] fitted together, grows into *a holy temple in the Lord*, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together ...

Since verse 14 of Ephesians chapter two, Paul has brought a progressive revelation of the glorious church.

He has described it as **A United Body ... A Family-Kingdom ... A Solid Household ...**

And here we see The Church now morphing into A 'Living Temple'.

IT'S INTERESTING THAT THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM NO LONGER EXISTS.

It was destroyed by 'Titus' in 70AD fulfilling Jesus words, 'Not one stone will be left standing on another. (Matthew 24:2)

**BUT THIS ALSO INDICATES THE END OF THE OLD COVENANT & THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW COVENANT ... THE END OF THE LAW AND THE COMING OF GRACE ... THE END OF THE OLD PHYSICAL TEMPLE WITH ITS SACRIFICES & CUSTOMS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LIVING TEMPLE.**

Hebrews 10:9

... *He takes away the first that He may establish the second.*

**THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM WAS ONLY A SHADOW OF THE REAL THING THAT WAS TO COME ... THAT REAL THING BEING REVEALED HERE ... AN ORGANIC TEMPLE ... BUILT WITH LIVING STONES – WHICH ARE ALL BELIEVERS – YOU AND ME.**

**SLIDE** THIS IS THE LIVING TEMPLE BEING MADE UP OF ALL BORN-AGAIN BELIEVERS ... WHO ARE BUILT TOGETHER ... ONE BY ONE – SIDE BY SIDE ... BY OUR LORD JESUS ... TO MAKE SOMETHING NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF BEFORE ... A LIVING TEMPLE.

Peter also mentions this ...

1 Peter 2:5 NLT **SLIDE**

*... You are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple ...*

**THIS TEMPLE IS ANOTHER VIEW OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH**

*For years I heard my mother say regarding church buildings, 'The Church is NOT a building ... **WE ARE THE CHURCH**'.*

**THE BUILDING IS NOT THE CHURCH**

**SO LIKEWISE HERE –**

**NOW **WE ARE THE REAL TEMPLE OF GOD!****

If we could see how the Jews honoured and loved The Temple of Jerusalem, how much more would we reverence and honour this Real Thing – this Living Temple – **THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD?**

**LET'S LOOK FURTHER INTO THIS LIVING TEMPLE AND OUR PLACE IN IT**

**THIS TEMPLE IS MADE OF PEOPLE-CONNECTIONS**

***THIS TEMPLE IS MADE UP OF YOU AND ME ... SO IT STANDS TO REASON THAT YOU AND I HAVE TO BE CONNECTED TOGETHER***

See the word **'together'** twice in our text –

Ephesians 2:21-22 **SLIDE**

*... In whom [Jesus] the whole building being [fitly] **fitted together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being **built together** ...*

But, here's a common scenario

- We get saved as a **single/individual person**
- We have a **personal relationship** with The Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S WHERE MANY BELIEVERS REMAIN & FAIL TO SEE OR ACCEPT THAT THEY ARE ALSO A PART OF THE CHURCH ...**

*Some Christians have embraced the idea that Jesus spoke of in ...*

Matthew 6:6 NLT

*But when you pray, go away **by yourself, shut the door** behind you, and pray to your Father **in private** ...*

**THE PROBLEM IS ... THAT'S THE SUM OF SOME PEOPLE'S CHRISTIANITY ...**

***THEY HAVE GONE INTO THEIR PRIVATE PLACE & HAVE NEVER COME BACK OUT.***

***WE NEVER SEE OF THEM AGAIN ...***

**SLIDE GOD DOES NOT WANT YOU TO LIVE IN ISOLATION ...**

From the beginning God said about Adam / Man, 'It is not good for man to be alone' (Genesis 2:18)

**IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S INTENTION FOR ALL BELIEVERS TO BE UNITED INTO ONE AMAZING ORGANIC COLLECTIVE CALLED THE CHURCH.**

*Many years ago, The Lord spoke to my heart in Fiji.*

*Not long before I was to minister in a meeting, I left the crowd and waited on Him. And there He said to me, 'Son you should always have two desires –*

- 1. **To be alone** with me so I can fellowship with and speak to you*
- 2. **To be with others** so you can fellowship with them and share what I've given you*

**AS WELL AS OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ... WE ARE ALL CALLED TO **A COLLECTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER.****

**GOD HAS PLANNED FOR ALL BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST TO BE SOLIDLY CONNECTED TO ONE OTHER, IN LASTING RELATIONSHIPS, AS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD ...**

**THIS TEMPLE IS AN ONGOING PROCESS OF PRAGMATIC CONNECTIONS**

*So you say, 'Yes, I see it Pastor Chris. You spoke a brilliant sermon a few weeks ago on how we are united in One Spiritual Body in perfect unity in Christ (Part 13 Reconciled to Each Other). And I realised then we are all spiritually connected. **SLIDE***

*From my oasis of green pastures, beside beautiful still waters, I can see the vision ... the beauty of our spiritual unity in the bond of peace. **IT IS THE IDEAL ... THE ULTIMATE ...***

IT'S TRUE FRIENDS. GOD HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED PERFECT SPIRITUAL UNITY (Ephesians 4:3)

BUT HERE GOD IS SPEAKING ABOUT PUTTING THIS SPIRITUAL UNITY INTO PRACTICE

**Stones are from The Earth** ... where we walk ...

This is our life here on The Earth ...

**NOW IT COMES TO ACTUAL PRACTICE ...**

Ephesians 2:21-22 **SLIDE**

*... In whom [Jesus] the whole building **being [fitly] fitted together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>*in whom you also are **being built together** ...**

**NB: The verbs 'BEING FITTED' & 'BEING BUILT'**

THIS IS A PRAGMATIC, ONGOING PROCESS OF US BECOMING PRAGMATICALLY WHO WE ALREADY ARE SPIRITUALLY.

*SO, GOD TAKES US BY THE HAND AND SAYS, 'SO GLAD YOU GET MY PLAN. COME ON ... LETS ACTUALLY DO THIS ... I HAVE A PLACE THAT I HAVE CHOSEN FOR YOU IN MY WALL!'*

### SO WHO IS BEING BUILT?

NB Verse 22 - '**You are being built**'

**WE ARE BEING BUILT ...**

**WE ARE NOT DOING THE BUILDING.**

**WHO ARE WE?**

THIS TEMPLE IS A CONNECTION OF ALL UNIQUE PERSONALITIES

**NOW I HAVE TO CORRECT MYSELF.**

**THE PROMO I PUT UP WAS NOT EXACTLY CORRECT. **SLIDE****

You can see on the promo all the blocks are of a uniformed shape, **but these are not the type of stones that are used to build the living temple.**

THE STONES THAT BUILD THE LIVING TEMPLE WERE NOT MASS PRODUCED & ALL ONE UNIFORMED SHAPE.

THESE STONES THAT THE LIVING TEMPLE IS BUILT FROM, ARE ALL UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL STONES OF ALL DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES ... **SLIDE**

This is how we are ...

WE ARE ALL HIS UNIQUE AND INDIVIDUAL LIVING STONES ...

To be a part of this glorious Temple ... we don't have to be like someone else.

We are all unique individuals.

**JESUS DOESN'T WANT YOU TO CONFORM TO SOMEONE ELSE'S SPIRITUAL IMAGE ... AS SO MANY CHRISTIANS END UP DOING.**

**God is not trying to suppress your individuality ... to shape you like somebody else ... so He can fit you together into a uniformed wall of sameness ...**

*It is a scary thing when church people all begin to look alike ... talk alike ... act alike ... sing alike ...*

*Like attracts like in the natural world system but it is not the way of the Master Builder ...*

**SLIDE:** Imagine several groups of blocks where each group only has blocks of the same shape and type ...

The stones of The Temple aren't meant to be the same

Dr Martin Lloyd-Jones says –

*Always regard with suspicion any kind of preaching that leads to a sameness in the results.*

You can tell what church some people belong to ... because they all speak the same ... and look the same ...

They are mass-produced ...

**A SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS**

**AN OLDER COUPLE I KNOW**

*I always wondered why these two conservative older English people in their 70s would join a young, hip-hop Hillsong church with black walls, flashing lights and smoke machines ...*

*But they told me they loved it ... and they were loved and appreciated and celebrated for who they were ...*

**Now I see how wonderful that was ...**

**We are not meant to be all the same.**

This wall is made up of working-class people ... business-class people ... Asian people ... Caucasian people ... cool people ...

uncool people ... strong people ... sensitive people ... pragmatic people ... creative people ...

THE WONDER OF IT ... THE VERITY ... THE INDIVIDUALITY ... ALL MAKING UP HIS GLORIOUS CHURCH ... A LIVING TEMPLE

## THE CHOOSING, CHIPPING & FITTING

Ephesians 2:21-22 **SLIDE**

*... In whom [Jesus] the whole building being [fitly] fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together ...*

PAUL MAKES UP A NEW WORD

It's only used by Paul in one other place in the Bible – in Ephesians 4:16

IT IS A DOUBLE COMPOUND WORD MADE UP OF 3 GREEK WORDS SUN / HARMOS / LEGO

1. SUN – symphony ...
2. HARMOS – from which the word harmony evolved = to lift up or be uplifting used in masonry ... or of joints fused together
3. LEGO – to put in order – to specifically select, collect or gather or pick out ...

It means more than just joined together, which many versions have. **It means a careful selection of a specific stone, specifically chosen to harmoniously fit next to another stone.**

The Old King James was the closest with 'Fitly Framed together'

IT MEANS HARMONIOUSLY FORMED TOGETHER

*Like bringing words together in the writing of a book - the perfect fitting together of the right words to form a sentence that flows well. Certain words flow better together ...*

So it is with us as Living Stones in the hands of –

## THE STONEMASON **SLIDE**

THE CRAFTSMAN BUILDING THESE STONES TOGETHER WAS NOT A BRICK LAYER BUT A GREAT **STONEMASON**.

Did you know Jesus was also a stonemason?

A carpenter was a general word for a builder who had to have many skills ... stone masonry being one of them ...

### THE CHOOSING

This master stonemason would select individual stones ... each chosen accurately ... carefully ... for its own uniqueness.

Each stone is precious ...

He loves and appreciates every stone.

It is a perfect stone for an exact position in His wall.

A personal, particular individual selection ...

This Temple's stones are perfected by the stonemason's own hand

### THE FITTING & CHIPPING

JESUS IS THE ONE FITTING YOU IN PLACE.

HE SAID, 'I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH' (MATTHEW 16:18)

**You are placed where the Master Builder wants you to be placed.**

He has chosen a place for you which is the best place for you ...

**built next to the right people beside you ... below you ... above you**

... even though they may be unlike you and might initially 'get on your goat'.

We are not the ones who decide ... we don't choose these people ...

He does the choosing ... He is the Master Builder ... and He is doing the fitting together.

*'LOVE BROKE THROUGH' Phil Keaggy 1977*

*All my life's plan is Thy moulding,*

*Not one single choice be mine.*

*Let me answer unrepining,*

*Father not my will but Thine.*

**MANUREWA AOG**

*After leaving Bible College, God took me to a church in Manurewa Auckland.*

*It was such a different city ... such a different culture ...*

**THESE PEOPLE WEREN'T HIPPIES OR ARTY LIKE WHERE I FELT COMFORTABLE.**

**SOME LOOKED AT ME FUNNY & I JUST DIDN'T FEEL AT HOME OR ABLE TO CONNECT.**

*(Remember ... It's Jesus who's doing The Building)*

*I wanted to go home and prayed, 'Lord I can't do this ... These people are so different ...'*

*I saw The Lord in my Heart, standing by an open door with His hand gesturing me through as He said, 'I didn't make you come here. You can go at any time you like.'*

**SO I STAYED & I CHANGED.**

**BRIAN HOUSTON**

*At that place, God connected Brian and me ...*

*Neither of us wanted this ...*

*We were so different.*

*He thought I was 'super-spiritual' ...*

*I thought he was carnal ...*

*But after many rough edges were chipped away ... we ended up becoming life-long friends and learning from each other.*

**GOD DOES A MOST INTRICATE WORK ... CHIPPING AWAY ... TRIMMING ... SANDING ... SMOOTHING.**

**HE FASHIONS US TO FIT CORRECTLY NEXT TO ANOTHER CHOSEN STONE.**

**PEOPLE SNAP AT OTHERS ... THEY ARE BRITTLE ... SPIKY ... SHARP ...**

**PEOPLE GET CUT BY THEM ...**

**UNTIL THE DIVINE STONEMASTER CHIPS THOSE SPIKY BITS AWAY ... AND HE SANDS US SMOOTH ... NOW WITH GENTLE EDGES ...**

**(See Hebrews 12 – His Chastening)**

### **SUBMIT TO THE STONEMASTERS HAND**

**SLIDE** DON'T BE AN INDEPENDENT STONE OR YOU MAY BE REPLACED (Judas was replaced)

**ALLOW HIS CHISEL OF CIRCUMSTANCE ... THE CHISEL OF TRIAL ... TO BREAK OFF THOSE SHARP-PRODIGIOUS EDGES**

**THEN LISTENING TO HIS MESSAGE – HIS SANDING GOSPEL –**



**THE HOLY SPIRIT RUBS US SMOOTH.**

***'LOVE BROKE THROUGH' Phil Keaggy 1977***

***His appointment must be blessing,***

***Though it may come in disguise.***

***For the end from the beginning,***

***Open to His wisdom lies.***

***All my life's plan is Thy moulding,***

***Not one single choice be mine.***

***Let me answer unrepining,***

***Father not my will but Thine.***