



Connected-My Life in the Church
Lesson 1: Connected In Christ
Lesson Text: Ephesians 2:17-22
Background Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-16

- **Connected:** Joined or linked together; having useful social or professional relationships; related by blood or marriage.

Question: Have you ever been interested in joining a group or a cause?

- **Foreigners and Strangers:** Foreigners refers to non-citizens who are short-term in a country; strangers to longer term residents. Neither of them had a citizenship or full rights. (v.19)
- **Cornerstone:** The foundation stone that anchors the whole structure. It sets the angle and the bearings for the structure that will rise from foundation. (v.20)

Lesson Scriptures:

Ephesians 2:17-18

17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (*John 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 12:13-14*)

Ephesians 2:19

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, (*1 John 3:1*)

Ephesians 2:20-22

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (*1 Peter 2:4-5*)

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. (*1 Cor. 3:16*)

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (*1 Peter 2:5*)



Application Questions:

- What emotions do you experience when you think about having direct access to God?
- How is being part of a church like being part of a family?
- What prevents us from viewing church membership as a privilege?
- Jesus remains the foundation of the church. What is our role in continuing the work?

Live It Out

- **View church membership as a gift.** Thank God daily for the opportunity to be included in His family, the church.
- **Ask the right question.** John F. Kennedy famously challenged Americans, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, as what you can do for your country.' Seek the Lord about what He would like for you to do in the church.
- **Invite others in.** Identify those around you who need to be introduced to the gospel and included in Christ's church. Invite at least one of these individuals this week.