Reset – Solid Ground for Uncertain Times January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

## Foundation 3: The Family of God

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." Ephesians 2:19-22

Christ makes us	:

hrist makes us	
1.	A people, so we represent Christ together.
2.	A <u>household</u> , so we belong together.

# 3. A temple, so we experience Christ's presence together.

## **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

## **Going Deeper**

- 2. How does an individualistic view of the gospel (i.e. "me and Jesus") impact our view of the church? Read Titus 2:11-14, 1 Corinthians 12:13, and Ephesians 2:11-22. What do these passages say about Christ's purpose in saving us? How does a "we and Jesus" perspective on the gospel transform our view of identity, and of having a relationship with God? How does it transform the way we read the Bible?
- 3. Paul says that Christ's death makes us "fellow citizens" (Ephesians 2:19). Christ dies to make us a people who represent him together (see John 13:34-35; Ephesians 3:8-10). How does this change our motivation for pursuing relationships with each other? For gathering?
- 4. Paul says that Christ makes us members of the same household (Ephesians 2:20). Why is it important to see the church not as a community we choose (like friends), but a community we receive (like family)? How does this reframe our commitment to the family of God?
- 5. Paul says that Christ has made us a dwelling place for the Spirit (Ephesians 2:21-22). How does this change the way we think about experiencing Christ's presence? What does this teach us about the importance of being physically together as God's people (see also Ephesians 4:11-16)?

## **Application**

- 6. The last two years have greatly disrupted our normal rhythms of life together. What is your biggest barrier to reestablishing relationships in the body of Christ? How might you overcome this?
- 7. Jeff gave a number of practical applications for how we can re-build community. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
- 8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?