

[SG Study]

The Church: A Shadow of Heaven on Earth

Ephesians 2:19-22

The Bible describes the church as the Bride of Christ, the Body of Christ, and the salt and light of the world—the unique community where God's glorious presence dwells. Ephesians 2 is Paul's message that reveals the true nature of God's glorious church.

Like Paul, let us use metaphors to describe what we understand "church" to be.

1. Paul describes the church as "God's people." (v.19)

The church is more than just a building; it is a community of God's chosen and holy people. What does it mean to be "members of God's household"? How did we become members of His household? (v.13) When do we most deeply experience that we are one family in Christ? Let's share our thoughts together.

2. Paul describes the church as "members of the body of Christ." (v.20)

The church is a community of believers connected to one another, with Christ at the center. What does it mean for Jesus to be the cornerstone? Building a united body of Christ requires sacrifice and dedication. What sacrifices and commitments can we make to be part of this body? Let's share together.

3. Paul describes the church as "God's dwelling place being built by the Holy Spirit." (vv.21-22)

What does it mean to be built together as a dwelling place for God? The church is not a finished work but a community where we are continually shaped by the Holy Spirit. In our current spiritual journey, are there areas where God is refining us? Let's share and reflect together.

"And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit." Ephesians 2:22