

TLC Home Group Expectations

- **Please start and end on time.** If you'd like to provide an atmosphere of fellowship, it's better that you provide this at the end to allow people who have to leave the opportunity to do so.
 - **Allow silence.** Allow room for others to contemplate and even feel uncomfortable when asking someone to read, within group prayer, or when throwing out a question. Please don't rush in just to fill the space. Allow God to do what only He can.
 - **When sharing, make it about you and what God is revealing about you and or Him.** Please allow room for others to share (don't dominate).
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New Identities
Ephesians 2:19-22

When someone asks **who you are**, what comes to mind *first*?

Peace between two groups that have nothing in common is the theme of the passage before this (2:11-18). It's brought about "by the blood of Christ" (2:13-14), and this **peace's implications** are in our passage this week...

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

- What implications, benefits, or realities come from this peace?

Verse 19 says that we Gentiles are "no longer foreigners and strangers."

This is written in a past tense, and focuses on **the bad of our past**.

- Talk about a time you felt like a foreigner or stranger somewhere.
 - Did something/someone change in that situation that made you feel like a "fellow citizen" or "member of [their] household"?
 - How does this relate to how we are foreigners and strangers to each other without Jesus?
 - How does this relate to how we are foreigners and strangers to God without Jesus?

- Who are the “foreigners and strangers” in your life, who you can seek to bring into relationship with God?
- Throughout the Bible, we read about our **total depravity**, telling us why we *should* be strangers/foreigners to God. Have some people in your group read the following verses: Ephesians 2:1-3, Ephesians 2:12, Jeremiah 17:9, Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:10-18 (notice each aspect of a person that is listed as being corrupt).
 - What’s your understanding/experience with total depravity?
 - How does your understanding/experience with total depravity impact your understanding/experience with God’s love?

Verse 21 says we, as Christians, are “*joined* together.” This is written in a past tense, and focuses on **the good of Jesus’ completed work for us**.

- How have you seen this reality in your Home Group (or your life)?
- These believing Jews and Gentiles had very little in common except for Jesus. How could/should this change our view of people that we have little-to-no commonalities with?
- Read John 6:37-40. How does this impact your confidence in the security of Jesus saving you?
- How can you better embrace your identity in Christ? How can you let go of some of your earthly/temporary “identities” (job, roles, nationality, background, etc.) that you hold onto?

Verse 22 says we are “*being* built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” This is written in a present/future tense and focuses on **the Spirit’s ongoing work in our lives**, through Himself and each other.

- How can you as a Home Group lean into this reality, to be built even closer together? What do you need from each other?
- How does/can/should this reality (that the Spirit lives in *all* believers) impact how we interact with each other?