



The Main Thing

Being with Jesus Together
Ephesians 2:11-22

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Keep the main thing the main thing.”? This is an important thing to keep in mind with so many things in life. The challenging part with living this phrase out, is that we easily allow distractions to pull us away from the main thing. We do this in our own personal lives, but also in the church. When we don’t keep the main thing the main thing in the church, we allow outside voices and lower level issues divide us. Jesus must be the main thing, in each of our lives, but also in our church.

As our church begins a new season and transition, it’s important for us to be reminded of what this is really all about. Jesus set up the church for us and it’s ultimately about Him. When He’s the main thing, everything else falls into place. For the first few weeks we are going to look at John 15, and what this can look like in our own lives. Then, we will look at some writings in the early church, and what it can look like for us as a church community to “keep the main thing the main thing.”

Vintage Church, we must be with Jesus together. Join the family! Be a family!

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Main Passage:

Ephesians 2:11-22

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 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.

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Questions for Group:

- What does it mean to be a Gentile? What does Paul say was the condition of Gentiles before Christ?
- Why is it important for Christians today to know that Gentiles used to be “separate from Christ”?
- How do vs. 12-13 affect how you relate to God, believers, and unbelievers?

- What do vs. 14-18 mean for us as citizens of an earthly nation?
- What are some common reasons that we see people divide? Why do Christians become divided?
- What are some of the reasons Paul gives for Christians to have unity in this passage, Romans 3:23-25, and James 2:1?
- What does Paul's message of unity mean for how we treat fellow Christians whom we feel divided from?
- What does it mean that we will be members of God's household (v. 19)? What does it mean that we are being built into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (v.22)?
- How does being a citizen of heaven change how we live?
- Are there any new areas that you are releasing to Jesus? Do you feel like you were able to release the areas you brought up in prior weeks?
- What are some areas where you are seeking to abide with Jesus? Were you able to abide with Jesus last week?