

BETTER, TOGETHER!?

LOVE • WELCOME • SERVE

Ephesians 2:13,17-22 “¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ ... 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.

REFLECT

Verse 19 affirms all the followers of Jesus as members of Jesus' "household." One of the fascinating realities of practicing "church" as a Life. Giving. Family is that we belong to a community with people whom we might otherwise have absolutely nothing to do with unless we followed Jesus.

QUESTION

As you read the above sentence whose face(s) came to mind? Is there any possibility that a) God could have something to teach you, through you getting to know that person better? OR b) Could God be inviting you to "serve" that person with "manifold grace" in some way, so that God's love might take tangible expression?

ACTION

It's almost impossible for us to get our heads around what it would have meant for Paul to say to people of a non-Jewish background that those who had been "foreigners and strangers" were now nothing less than family members of Jesus ! This is similar to the shock of Jesus' parable from last week, where the least, the lame, and the blind found themselves guests at a magnificent banquet for no reason other than the absurd generosity of the master!

With consideration of God's absurd generosity towards us, who could you express that generosity to this week in action? How will you do that?