



**How to travel**  
**Traveling to Chicago: how might we travel?**  
**Together or separate?**  
**If together, how might we **choose**?**  
**What is God's vision for His people?**

1

**God's New House**  
**Ephesians 2:8-22**  
[ref.ly/Eph2;niv](https://ref.ly/Eph2;niv)



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## Ephesians 2:8-10

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For **we are God's handiwork** created in Christ Jesus **to do good works** which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Created by God in Christ  
for the work God has for us to do**

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## Ephesians 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup> 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)— <sup>12</sup> **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**

**Remember that every one of us  
was separated from God and His people**

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## Ephesians 2:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But now **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For **he himself** is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

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His purpose was to create **in himself one new humanity** out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which **he put to death** their hostility. <sup>17</sup> **He came and preached peace** to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father **by one Spirit**

**The way out of hopelessness and division  
and into His glorious vision  
is Jesus Christ Himself**

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## Ephesians 2:19-22

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

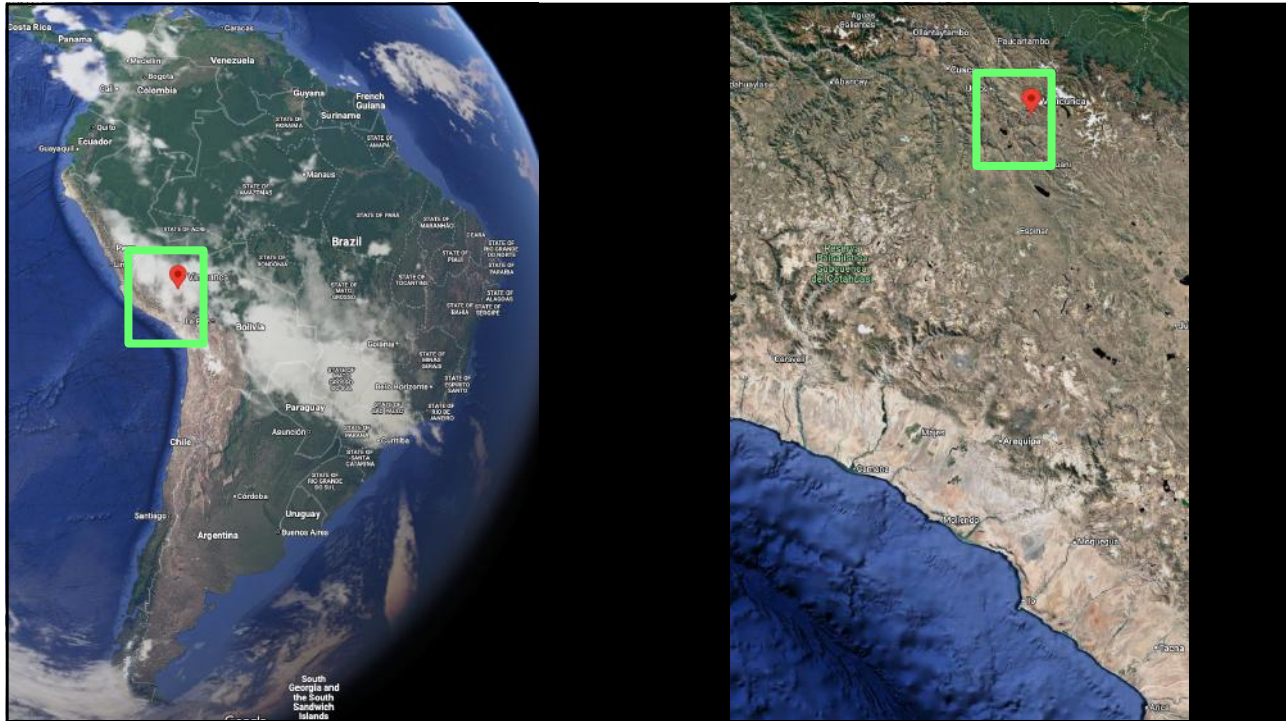
<sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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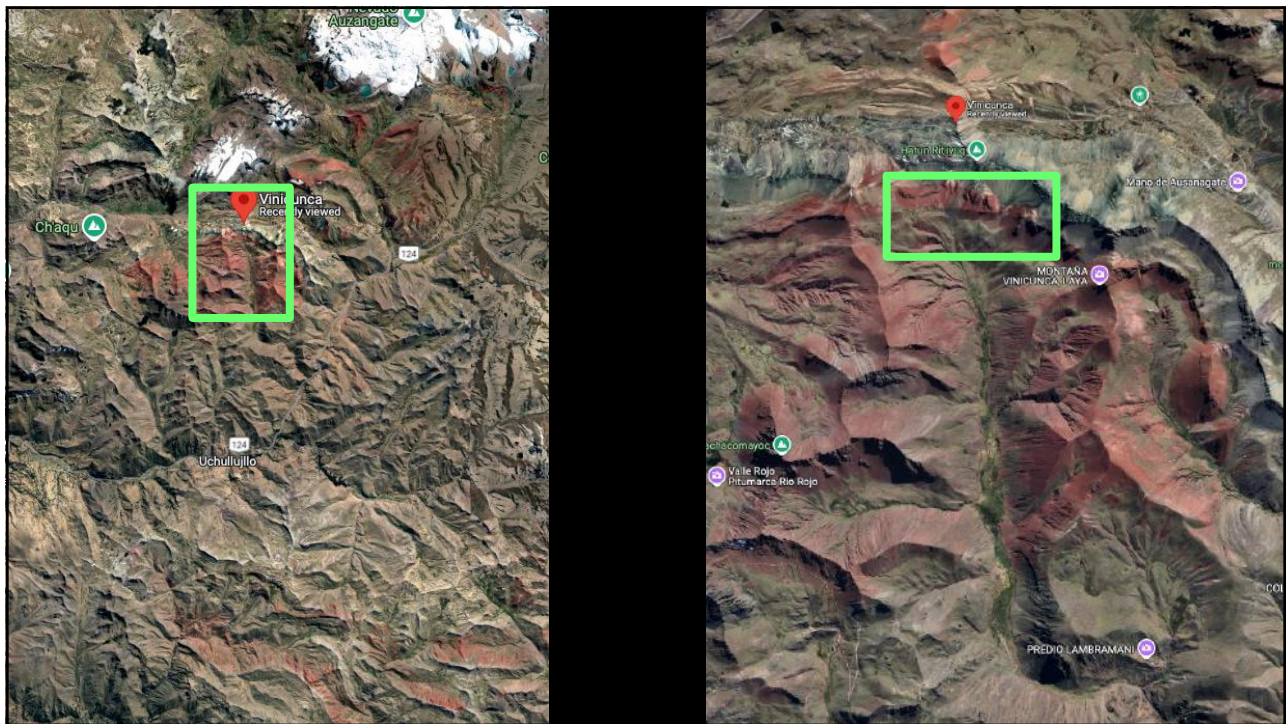
## The Main Point

God's purpose in salvation is  
to form **one new humanity**  
drawn from all peoples  
to be one new house for God

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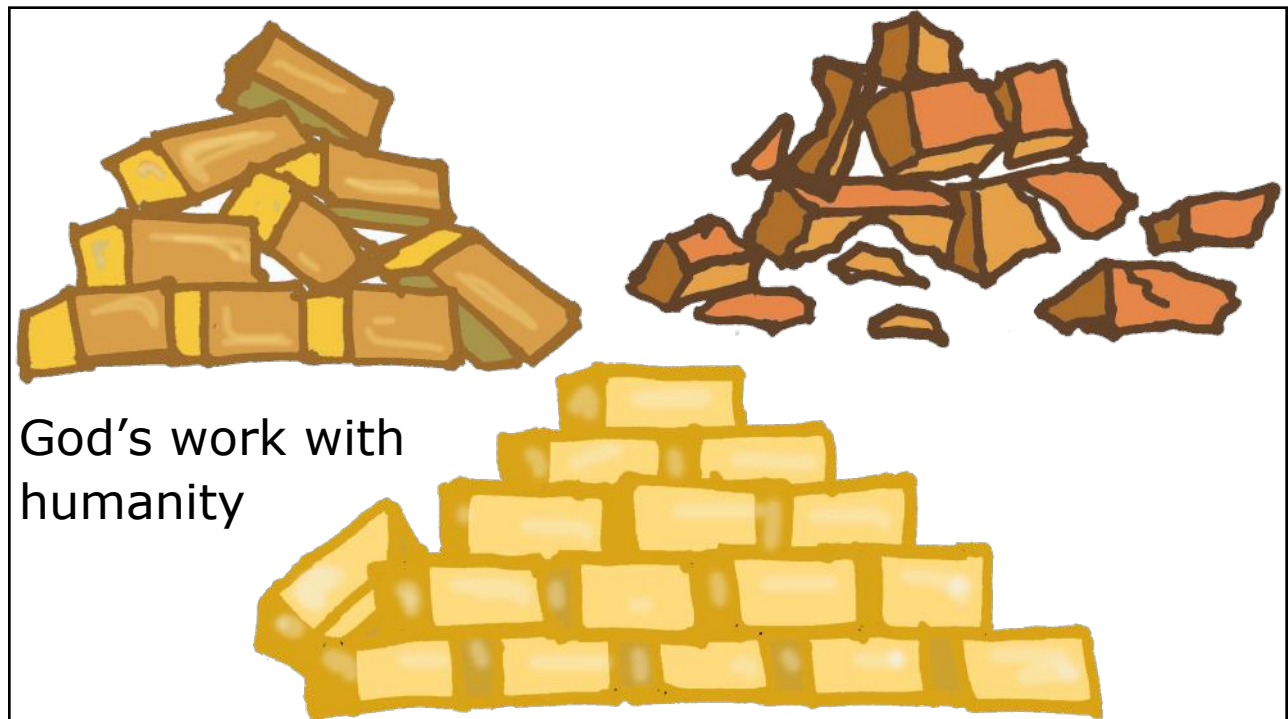
12

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord

Ephesians 3:10-11

manifold = having many different and diverse forms or elements

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God chose to  
make one new  
humanity

Manifold and  
multicolored

Friendship is  
richer with  
more different

Isaiah 6



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## The Main Point

God's purpose in salvation is  
to form one new humanity  
drawn from all peoples  
to be one new house for God  
where diversity enriches the house

**The less the diversity  
the narrower the range of God's glory we'll see  
and the less we'll fulfill God's eternal purpose**

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## Application

### **Boldly pursue humility**

- Remember our natural distance from God
- Remember our own continued battle with sin, selfishness, and self- & group-centrism
- "Be **completely humble** and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2

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## Application

### **Humbly pursue boldness**

- "And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ... But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." 1 Corinthians 12:16, 18
- Learn to be more humble while also boldly being who God has made us to be

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## Application

### Join God's work to form **one new humanity**

- **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called to **one** hope when you were called; **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all, who is over **all** and through **all** and in **all**." Ephesians 4:3-6

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## Application

### Join God's work to form **one new humanity**

- Core value: **Diverse Unity in Christ**
  - We pursue unity in Christ
  - We intentionally pursue diversity in Christ
  - We endeavor to walk in humility
  - We value "healthy discomfort"
  - We place each part of each difference under God

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## Application

### Join God's work to form one new humanity

- Conviction:
  - This is God's purpose in salvation
  - It is even more needed than 10 years ago
  - We rejoice in what God has done!
  - We are perhaps like a 10 year old...
- Stepping into Spirit-led strategic planning
  - How is God calling us deeper and farther into His vision?

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## Picking a Way

### Choosing a way to get to Chicago

### What is God's vision for us as His people?

### Given who WE are in Christ, how will WE go?

- An intentionally diverse community united in Christ that is enriched by all who join the journey
- Together we form a new way to journey that is rich and complex and beautiful since it is shaped by God's gift of each of us

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His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:10-11

