

God's New House

Ephesians 2:8-22



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?

Ephesians 2:8-22

8-10

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

11-12

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

13-18

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

19-22

"being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit"



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

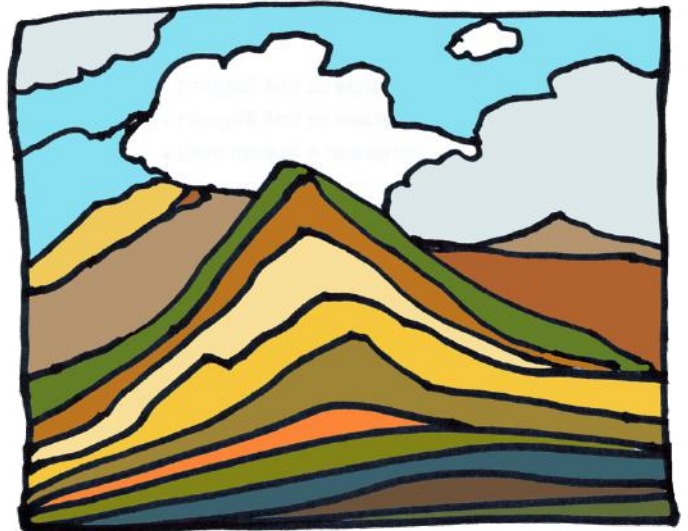
"His intent was that now, through the church, the **manifold** wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Ephesians 3:10-11*

God chose to make one new humanity

Manifold and multicolored

Friendship is richer with more different

"They were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.'" *Isaiah 6:3*



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

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*

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

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*

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

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?

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

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What has been your experience when different peoples come together in the same space? How has that been beautiful? How has it been problematic?
2. What does it mean to boldly pursue humility? What steps will you take?
3. What does it mean to humbly pursue boldness? What steps will you take?
4. What does it look like for the Church, and each church, to pursue God's vision for His people?

Conversation starters

Do you think the world is becoming more peaceful and united, or more in conflict and divided?

If it is more divided, does that trouble you? What could help fix it?