



Key References:

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 – This new season

September often marks a new year & season for many things including Connect Groups. **What new things are taking place in your life this season?**

How are you looking to God stretch and grow you this year? Did you see God produce growth in you last year?

How are you hoping that God uses this Connect Group in your life this year? Does anyone have a testimony from attending a group last year?

2 – Being built together

Read Eph 2:19-22. **Look around you; how were we “once strangers and aliens” from each other?**

Verse 21 & 22 tells us that we are “*growing into a holy temple*” and “*being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit*”. **What is significant to you about how these verses relate to us gathering at church and Connect Group together?**

Verse 19 reminds us that we are a “household”. Mike on Sunday said that a lot of people think of the church incorrectly as an organization. **What is significant about our church being likened to a family instead of an organization? How do people act differently in both?**

3 – Diverse and valued kin

If church is like a family then each member has equal value. **If that is true what value could God bring through you the others?**

Mike also said that “*families value diversity while organizations value conformity*”. **How is Oceanside uniquely diverse? What benefit does that bring?**

As it related to us, what stands out to you from imagery of “living stones” in 1 Peter 2:4-5?

From 1 Peter 2:9-10 it’s clear that God has put us together to proclaim God’s excellencies. **How might God use you to do this in this coming year?**