

### Lesson 3 in Unite, Renew, Revive Series Theme of Lesson: Renew

*“As God’s household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:20-22 (CEB)*

Paul is telling the mostly gentile believers in Ephesus that they have the same status as Jewish believers. He uses the analogy of building. To be built on the same foundation as the apostles and prophets means that we share their purpose to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. To do this, we need to be connected to one another.

**Question:** How can we strengthen our fellowship when we are divided by those who worship in person versus those who worship virtually?

**Question:** How does our physical building help us to be the “building” Paul is describing?

Paul continues his analogy by describing Jesus Christ as the cornerstone, meaning that he is the reference point that determines the standard and direction of the rest of the building. We are strengthened and enabled by the Holy Spirit to be a temple dedicated to the Lord.

**Question:** What does knowing that Jesus is our cornerstone mean to you?

**Question:** In what ways do we demonstrate being a temple dedicated to the Lord?

In Mexico, it is common for building construction to leave rebar exposed on the roof. The hope is that there will be additional building someday. In Ephesians Paul says Christ is building us into a place where God lives through the Spirit. God is not finished with this building! We are already justified through God’s grace, but we are still being sanctified. As Shirley Guthrie puts it in Christian Doctrine: “Justification tells us that God adopts us to be God’s children. Sanctification tells us that God expects and helps us to live as God’s children—and therefore as brothers and sisters of one another.”

**Question:** What does it mean to grow in sanctification?

**Question:** How does our church family live “as brothers and sisters of one another”?

As the Holy Spirit works in and through us, it is making us into a holy people in whom God dwells. We are his. He knows us and loves us, as individuals and as a fellowship. Of course that fellowship goes beyond our church. All Christians are built on our common cornerstone and all have the goal of responding to God’s love.

**Question:** How does repairing our facility help us to do God’s will?

**Question:** What are some ways we will use Fellowship Hall to reach out to the community?