

WE ARE GOD'S GREATEST MASTERPIECE

(Ephesians 2:19-22)

The church is God's greatest masterpiece. As Pastor Eric Alexander once said, "History's greatest climax comes when God brings down the curtain on this bankrupt world and the Lord Jesus Christ arrives in infinite glory. When that day comes, do you know what Jesus will be pointing to when He says to the whole creation, 'There is My masterpiece?' He will be pointing to His church!" From eternity past, God the Father has purposed in His heart and mind to choose and call the church as His precious love gift to His Son Jesus (Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 2:11-13; John 6:39-40; 17:6-12). **Since the church is God's greatest masterpiece, we must cherish the eternal privilege of belonging to the Lord's church.** Ephesians 2:19-22 helps us appreciate the immense value of belonging to the church as it provides three reasons why we as the church are indeed God's greatest masterpiece.

1. ***We are God's masterpiece because we are the _____.***
Unbelievers who are separated from Christ are considered as "strangers and aliens" for they are outside the saving blessing of the kingdom of Christ (Ephesians 2:12,19). But once we repent of our sin, unbelief and rebellion against God, we become royal citizens of God's eternal kingdom (Colossians 1:13). As God's church, we now belong to the greatest Monarch Himself, King Jesus, who grants us full pardon, privileges, provision and protection as His heavenly citizens. Whatever crisis is happening around the world, everything is well and secure for those of us who are in the kingdom of Christ.
 2. ***We are God's masterpiece because we are the _____.***
As God's church, we are not only fellow citizens with the saints, we are also dear members of God's eternal household (Ephesians 2:19). As God's beloved family, God is our Father, Jesus is our elder brother, the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us and we, believers, are brothers and sisters in Christ (John 1:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:1-2). We are forever loved and will never be disowned nor forsaken by God in spite of our unfaithfulness and waywardness (Hebrews 12:5-12; 13:5). As 2 Timothy 2:13 says, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful!"
 3. ***We are God's masterpiece because we are the _____.***
As the church of our Lord, we are not only related to God as citizens of His kingdom and members of His family but also as His holy temple (Ephesians 2:20-22). The church as the holy temple of God is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets who were the writers of the completed revelation of God's Word (Ephesians 2:20). Everything we are and everything we do as a church must be founded upon the inerrant, infallible, apostolic and written Word of God (Acts 2:42). Furthermore, the life and ministry of our church are anchored upon the person and work of our Lord Jesus, who is the chief cornerstone of the church (Ephesians 2:20; John 5:39; Luke 24:27; 1 Corinthians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:5). As members of Christ's church, it is God Himself who joins, fits, grows and builds us together to fulfill our purpose to be God's holy temple (Ephesians 2:21-22). No one is misplaced or out of place in the Lord's church if God Himself is the One who joined us together and who sanctifies us to be conformed to the image of Christ. Upon Jesus' return, we will all be presented to God in eternal splendor and glory, perfected in the beauty of holiness (Ephesians 5:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).
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