

**Reading Family Church**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

**Title: We are ...**

**Read: Ephesians 2v19-22**

The context of this passage is the reality that we have been written in an old story, through faith in Jesus. God promised Abram in Gen 12v3 'All peoples on earth will be blessed through you'. God called a people to himself out of Egypt and into a promised land. Here He established them as a nation with a country, a temple, a Law and an identity as His people. Gentiles (non Jews) were separate from this unmerited favour; they were foreigners and aliens to these covenant promises, without hope and without God (v12).

*But we are no longer foreigners and aliens (v19)* - We are now fellow citizens with God's people, members of His household. We are adopted sons & daughters, no longer alienated from God. He has re-established our vertical relationship to himself. We are now clothed in robes of Jesus' righteousness and marked with a seal, the Holy Spirit (1v13).

*We are built on foundations (v20)* - We are not those who are built on shaky foundations, rather on what the apostles and prophets taught. By this we mean that whatever they emphasized, we should emphasize. However, our chief cornerstone is Jesus himself; His example, His teachings, His life, death and resurrection.

*We are one building (v21)* - We are joined together as part of the worldwide, universal church. And God's church is rising; she is growing despite our increasingly secular situation in the UK. The Fun day in Whitley was a small expression of the wider unity we have with God's church in Reading.

*We are being built together (v22)* - As we gather on a Sunday and midweek; as we worship & learn together from God's word; as we serve & care for one another; we are being built together. We not only come to God the Father as individuals, we must also come to Him as a community. There is a key horizontal component to the life of a Christian we must outwork.

*We are a dwelling (v22)* - A dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. There is to be a supernatural element among us as we gather. There should always be something about us that can't be copied, that makes us distinctive from those who don't yet know Jesus.

**Suggested questions:**

1. Are you more aware of the vertical or the horizontal when we gather together?
2. What do you think the apostles & prophets emphasized?
3. Do you speak well of, and pray for, other churches?
4. Can you serve on the SUPA or PA teams? (or other serving teams)