

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 19.10.25

PREACHER: PS JOSH PLUMB

The Church as Family, Temple, and Dwelling

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple recognises that the Church is not built on preference or personality, but on the person of Christ. We are being formed together into one body—a living, Spirit-filled community where love, belonging, and worship become our shared life.

OVERVIEW

The Church is not an event to attend but a people being shaped into God's dwelling place. In Christ, strangers become family and individuals become living stones, joined together by grace. The Spirit builds us not around preference but around presence. As we yield to this work, the Church becomes what it was always meant to be—a home for God and a place of reconciliation for the world.

ACTION

Step 1: How might God be calling you to move from “attender” to “participant” in the life of His Church?

Step 2: What relationships within the body of Christ might need grace, forgiveness, or renewed commitment?

Step 3: Where do you sense the Spirit inviting you to see your ordinary moments of worship and hospitality as holy?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:13–22, 1 Peter 2:5 & 9, Hebrews 13:15–16

The church was never meant to be a place we go. It's who we are becoming—together.

Through Christ, strangers are made family, individuals are joined together—stone to stone, and ordinary spaces become the dwelling place—the new temple of God. And as we gather together, it is certainly not to be entertained or even affirmed in our own preferences or our personal spiritual salvation project, but instead it is so we are built—slowly, painfully, beautifully—into something completely new—a new humanity; the Body of Christ.

The world and culture we're surrounded by teaches us to curate our lives around preference and taste. We even create little communities around these preferences—sports clubs, reading groups, political parties, etc. These aren't necessarily bad in and of themselves. But in our discipleship journey with Jesus it becomes imperative to realise that the way of Jesus is different. To walk with Jesus means that we are going to be called out of our customised life of comfortable surroundings and into a shared story where love and grace for the other have the first and last word. When we come together as the church, we are practising the undoing of self as the centre of our life, and learning to make space—for God and for one another. This making space for the other is fundamental to God's life and so it becomes fundamental to ours.

This is not sentimentality. It's formation. Every handshake, every prayer prayed for another, every meal shared across difference—each is a small stone being set in place. The Spirit takes what feels ordinary and turns it into a habitation of God's glory. The table we share becomes the altar; our singing alongside each other becomes a place of sacrifice; our hospitality becomes a holy act. To love God, to worship God *is* to love each other. They are not two things, but one.

Christ is not simply the topic of our gathering—He is our life. He holds us together when personalities clash, when fatigue sets in, when the temptation to withdraw creeps close. He teaches us to forgive, to listen, to see the image of God in the person across the room whose story we are yet to understand. In Him, we are being built into something eternal—something that will still be standing long after the empires of ego and preference have fallen silent.

To be the church is to allow God to do His slow work of shaping us into a people of oneness (though diverse in many ways). It is to stay at the table when it would be easier to leave. It is to see the holy in the ordinary—the presence of Christ in the other, in the meals shared among friends, even in our “enemy”.

And maybe that's the most amazing miracle: that God would choose to make His home not in temples made from wood and stone, but in the fragile, unpredictable, flesh and blood or beautifully broken people who are learning to live in love. We are His home—and He is making His home in us.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) What does it mean for you personally that the Church is being “built together” by the Spirit?
- 2) How do preference, individuality, and consumerism sometimes get in the way of oneness in Christ?
- 3) What practices might help your group embody belonging, forgiveness, and shared worship this week?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

You are our cornerstone and architect of our life together as your Church. Build us into Your dwelling place. Free us from the need to be right, recognised, or in control. Teach us to love, to stay, to see You in one another. May Your Spirit form us into a family where acts of grace and love flow freely.

Amen.