

# The Church: A Building

Eph 2:19-22

## The Church is...

- **more than bricks and mortar.**

The church is the gathering of believers in Jesus.

- **built on the Scriptures.**

It's why we have our values, practice baptism and communion, and recognize leadership.

- **built around Jesus.**

It's why we say, "Passionately Pursuing Jesus Christ".

- **a work in progress.**

We are indebted to imperfect people who have gone before.

- **a house for God.**

The church is the closest we get to heaven on earth.

**Getting Started:** How do you decide in what to invest (monetarily, relationally, time, etc)? Tell about something in which you have invested?

**Digging In:** Read these verses (Acts 9:31; 1 Cor 3:9-10, 16; 2 Cor 6:16; Col 2:7; 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Pet 2:4-7). List all the insights they give about the church being a building. What do these verses say about the conduct of individuals and the church corporately? What does it mean that the foundation of the church is the Scriptures (Eph 2:20)? What does it mean for the church that Jesus is the cornerstone (Eph 2:20)? In what way is the building of the church "in progress" (Eph 2:21)? How do you think things would change in local churches if they viewed themselves as a "dwelling of God in the Spirit"?

**Living It Out:** Do you agree with the statement, "The church is the closest we get to heaven on earth"? Why or why not? Are you operating in the church as a stone built together with others or as a stone waiting to be placed? Why is understanding that the church is the dwelling place of God critical to your willingness to invest in the church?