

The Sacred “Inner” Space Between (Eph 3:16): The Temple-Church as Revelation of God's Reconciling Mystery and Its Potential for Church Growth Outcomes

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II. Weighing the Context and the Burden of Interpretation: Individual or Corporate?

II.1.9

Ephesians 1:19b–23

These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 2:19–22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:14–19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

II. 1.10

Ephesians 2:15c . . . 19–22	Ephesians 3:16–17	Ephesians 4:15–16
. . . so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man . . . ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner <i>stone</i> , ²¹ in whom <u>the whole building</u> , being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are <u>being built together</u> into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.	. . . that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; <i>and</i> that you, <u>being rooted and grounded in love.</u>	. . . but speaking the truth in love, <u>we are to grow up</u> in all <i>aspects</i> into Him who is the head, <i>even</i> Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, <u>being fitted and held together</u> by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself <u>in love.</u>

III. Implications from Solomon’s Temple Dedication and Other OT Temple Texts

III.1.a

The immediate context links the “one new man” and the Ephesians 3 prayer together.

Ephesians 2:11–22	Ephesians 3:1–19
<p>¹¹Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” <i>which is performed in the flesh by human hands</i>— ¹²<u>remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.</u> ¹³But now in Christ Jesus <u>you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.</u> ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who made both <i>groups into one</i> and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, <i>which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances</i>, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man [<i>eis hena kainon anthrōpon</i>], <i>thus</i> establishing peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸<u>for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.</u> ¹⁹So then <u>you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,</u> ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner <i>stone</i>, ²¹in whom the whole building, <u>being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,</u> ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.</p>	<p>¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you; ³that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it <u>has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;</u> ⁶<i>to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,</i> ⁷of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. ⁸To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly <i>places</i>. ¹¹<i>This was</i> in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²<u>in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.</u> ¹³Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. ¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be <u>strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man</u> [<i>eis ton esō anthrōpon</i>], ¹⁷so that <u>Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;</u> <i>and</i> that you, <u>being rooted and grounded in love,</u> ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the <u>breadth and length and height and depth,</u> ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, <u>that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.</u></p>