

The Privilege of Belonging

Series: The Art of Loving

February 15, 2026

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NLT) So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family... becoming a holy temple for the Lord... a dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Introduction: The gospel is more than forgiveness. It is the story of how we were chosen, adopted, and brought home.

We were not only rescued from something...we were brought into Someone’s family.

In Ephesians 2, Paul shows how God’s love is revealed through three images that display how deeply we are loved:

- Love brought us into His Kingdom
- Love welcomed us into His Family
- Love made us His Dwelling Place

1. Love Brought Us Into His Kingdom

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) – We are no longer strangers and foreigners but citizens with God’s people.

Before Christ we were:

- Spiritually distant
- Separated and lost
- Unable to find our way to God

Ephesians 2:1–3 – Dead in sin and under spiritual bondage.

Colossians 1:13 – God rescued us from darkness and brought us into Christ’s kingdom.

Because of His love:

- We are no longer outsiders
- We are no longer unwanted
- We are no longer alone

Love gave us a place to belong under His rule and kingship.

But God's love goes further, the King who rescued us also becomes the Father who receives us.

2. Love Welcomed Us Into His Family

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) – We are members of God's family.

Through repentance and faith in Christ:

- We are born again
- We are adopted
- We become sons and daughters

1 John 3:1 We are called children of God.

Romans 8:15 We cry, "Abba, Father."

The church is not merely an organization. It is the household created by the love of God.

Being citizens is amazing. Being children is even more intimate.

Yet God's love goes further still.

3. Love Chose to Live Among Us and Within Us

Ephesians 2:20–22 (NLT) We are God's house, built on Christ the cornerstone, joined together as a dwelling where God lives by His Spirit.

God's love does more than save individuals; it creates a people.

- As citizens, we share a kingdom
- As children, we share a Father

- As living stones, we share a dwelling place for God

Different backgrounds. Different stories. Different cultures. Yet: One Spirit, One foundation and One family.

Love is what holds us together.

Once we were strangers, now we belong. Once we were distant, now we are family. Once we were scattered, now we are God's dwelling.

All because of the love of God in Christ. We live loved. We stand loved. We are being formed together by His love.

The greatest privilege we will ever know is not what we do for God, but that we belong to Him.