

WHO WE ARE

WHO WE ARE:

- The power of WE (strength in numbers; you're not alone; we are with you) (some things are too heavy to lift alone; some assignments cannot be accomplished without the power of we)
- Paul has been talking to us about our identity in Christ. It has been true corporately but can be applied personally, but now he shifts to OUR identity, who WE are.

WHO WE ARE:

- Ephesians 2:19-22, “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

WHO WE ARE:

- Ephesians 2:19-22, “In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

WHO WE ARE:

- Paul uses three images – Kingdom, family and temple – to describe who WE are. Jesus tore down the dividing walls that separated us from God & each other, so now we can draw near – Jews and Gentiles alike are one. We have become a new people unto God. This is who we are.

WHO WE ARE:

- First, we are citizens of an eternal Kingdom. Eph 2:19, “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people.” Before Christ, the Gentiles were strangers & excluded from citizenship in Israel. But, now they have citizenship in an eternal Kingdom. (customs in Nigeria; returning home)

WHO WE ARE:

- First, we are citizens of an eternal Kingdom. Eph 2:19.
- We aren't just citizens, we are ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20);
We are heirs of God, co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17);
We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph 2:6), sharing in the incomparable power of Jesus (Eph 1:19). (praying with authority – intimacy & identity)

WHO WE ARE:

- Second, we are sons and daughters in our Heavenly Father's household. Eph 2:19, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household."

WHO WE ARE:

- Second, we are sons and daughters in our Heavenly Father's household. We are God's family. Adopted into the household of God. "God's household" is a metaphor that expresses a sense of belonging & closeness that is experienced within the bonds of a family. (traveling, believers, brothers & sisters) (loyalty; departures)

WHO WE ARE:

- Third, we are an ever expanding mobile temple manifesting the presence of God in the world. Eph 2:20, “Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. (1990 - temple stones – 55’ long, 11’ high, 14’ wide, 570 tons)

WHO WE ARE:

- Third, we are an ever expanding mobile temple manifesting the presence of God in the world. Eph 2:20, “And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” (Christ is the cornerstone; Apostles & prophets are foundation; building is expanding – as new people come; a dwelling for God) (new temple is mobile; carry the presence; crash)