THE CROSS: GOD'S PEOPLE

19 JANUARY 2025



¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

— Ephesians 2:19–20 (NIV)



PRAY

- Thank God for an answered prayer this week.
- Thank God for placing you in a community of believers.
- Pray to understand more deeply what it means to be in this community and serve Jesus together.

MEDITATE

Engage

Start the conversation with this question...

Who are the people you hang out with the most? Which of your friend groups can you truly confide in?

Key Points

Connect to God's truth by sharing...

- In Christ, we are part of a new community, the Church, that is called to unity and service for God's kingdom.
- We've all struggled to be at peace with others and even ourselves. True peace only comes from God!
- Even in church we experience conflict, but we should be united with one truth: the gospel of Jesus.
- Like parts of one body, God's people have different strengths and responsibilities, but we are all working together.
- Everyone who is in Christ is part of His kingdom and has an important role to play!

Discuss Together (pick at least one)

- The Jews and Gentiles never thought they would get along in one church community. What community did you think you couldn't be friends with?
- We experience conflict even in church. How have you experienced and handled this?
- What are some ways you or your church community serve the city? What gifts or talents has God given you that can help others?

PROCLAIM

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Declare this truth based on your identity in Christ

Key Truth

In Christ, we are part of a new community, the Church, where we work together and serve God's kingdom.

Pray Together (pick at least one)

- Pray to find the community that God is placing you in for fellowship and accountability in walking with Jesus.
- Pray for unity within the church community, even as you have different roles in God's body.
- Pray for each other's prayer requests.

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⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

— Romans 12:4–6 (NIV)