

God's Home

Ephesians 3.17

Key Points:

- “*Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him*”. This is one of the most incredible verses in the Bible! If you ever feel distant from Jesus, look up this verse and read it, meditate on it, and then pray that you would know God’s very real presence in you, with you and available to you!
- The word translated ‘make his home’ carries a sense of dwelling, settling down. It carries a sense of permanence - Jesus is in the business of buying our hearts, not renting them. And so he makes his home in our hearts; removing the old stuff and bringing in the new. The lies about ourselves and God, the sinful habits and thoughts, the shame and brokenness are all replaced with his truth, his life, his peace, his goodness. That is at the core of the gospel.
- One way that can help us to engage with this is to imagine our hearts as a house with different rooms. Each room represents a different part of us - the study our mind, the dining room our desires, the living room our relationships, the cupboard under the stairs our sin etc. Jesus wants to move in and make his home in every part. Our calling is to invite him in, to surrender and submit each and every part to him. We can’t transform our hearts, but he can.
- Trusting Jesus on a daily basis in all these areas is one way we can participate and actively invite Jesus in to our hearts. When we trust Jesus in our decision making, our actions, our sharing the gospel, our work, our relationships, our hopes etc. it’s as though he’s redecorated another room in our hearts. It’s the process of Sanctification, being made holy, and becoming the people that God has created us to be.

Questions:

1. What are some of the ways in which you have made your home in your current house, or in a previous location?
2. Is Jesus at the centre of your life? Where do you struggle to let him in? If you don’t know, why not ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you need to submit.
3. God’s plan is for Jesus to be Lord of every part of us. That means submitting our thoughts, our hopes, our actions, our emotions etc. to him every moment of every day. What might this look like in practice? How can we support each other in this?
4. If appropriate, why not share ways in which Jesus has ‘redecorated’ *your* heart - by removing the old and replacing it with his kingdom items. This might be changes in the way you think, or you act, or more evidence of things like fruits of the spirit (cf. Gal 5.16-26).
5. Take some time of quiet by yourself to pray and in your imagination invite Jesus into the different ‘rooms’ of your heart [the study (thoughts), the dining room (desires), the living room (relationships), the ‘hobby room’ (talents), the room under the stairs (sin) etc.]
6. Trusting Jesus is the way in which we can participate in this home-making of Jesus. What might ‘Trusting Jesus’ look like in your life? Why does trusting Jesus make a difference in terms of our hearts?
7. Where might He be asking you to take a risk for Him this week? (e.g. offering to pray for someone you don’t know, reading your bible in public, saying ‘yes’ to God etc.)