Recap of 11/8/26 message by Chris Sommerfield
("Demo Day to Dwelling Place") Ephesians 2:11-22

- In Ephesians 2:11-22, Paul emphasizes that through Christ's sacrifice, both Jews and Gentiles are reconciled to God and united as one body, highlighting the breaking down of barriers and the creation of a new temple in the Spirit. This passage encourages Christians to embrace their identity as part of the body of Christ, reminding them that despite differences, they are unified through Jesus. Christ is the cornerstone of the church, fulfilling the law and providing access to God for all humanity. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus reconciles humanity to God and to one another, serving as the foundation for the church. In Him, all believers find unity and purpose, forming a single dwelling for the presence of God, thus transforming societal divisions into divine community.

- Christ is our peace and brings peace by breaking down the barrier of the dividing wall, hostility. He does this at the cross when the law is fulfilled in His sacrifice, the wrath of God is poured out, and the law is nullified for those who accept the grace of God by faith. This is how we become "under grace and not the law." Now, this isn't to suggest that the law is bad. It isn't. Over and over again in scripture we see that the law is good. Rather it is the sin and condemnation that the law shows within us that creates the barrier between us and God and us and other people. This is the "enmity" that Christ abolished in His flesh (that is, in His atoning sacrifice on the cross in our place). Through Him we are reconciled to God and formed into one new group of people, those who are "in Christ." That must be the core of our identity. We aren't Americans who are also Christian, or republicans or democrats who are also Christian. We are Christians. We are in Christ, and everything else about who we are folds into that. This moves us to actively seek peace and reconciliation in our personal lives and communities, rooted in the example of Christ's sacrifice.

- Before God builds something beautiful, He tears down what keeps us divided. God isn't simply renovating an old structure; He is creating something new in Christ, namely, a reconciled people who become His dwelling place. we need to stop rebuilding walls that Jesus died to tear down. We are not called to live on opposite sides of the wall. We are called to be built together as the dwelling place of God.