

Developing Supernatural Community

2026-02-16 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Ephesians 2

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Jesus did not die so people could enjoy each other's company. That was Pastor Matt's blunt opening to the close of the Christlike Community series. Ephesians 2 describes something bigger: a dividing wall demolished, two hostile groups made into one, and people being joined and built together into a place where God lives by his Spirit. Pastor Matt leaned on Bonhoeffer's famous contrast. Spiritual community rests on the Word of God. Emotional community rests on desire and personality. That is why the second kind collapses the moment someone disagrees, and the first kind does not.

To get started

- Think of a group you were part of that actually worked. What held it together?

Looking back at the message

The spiritual versus emotional distinction is sharp. Let people push back on it.

- 1 Pastor Matt said Jesus did not die so we could vibe together. What exactly is he arguing against?
- 2 Community founded on Christ is a different thing from community founded on personality. How can you tell which one you are actually in?
- 3 Pastor Matt said a word from God sometimes only reaches you through another believer saying it out loud. When has that happened to you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Ephesians 2:14-22 aloud. Notice how much of it is construction language.

- 4 Read Ephesians 2:14-16. What does Paul say has been broken down, and what new thing is being made?
- 5 Verse 19 moves through three words: foreigners, citizens, household. What does each step add?
- 6 Verses 20-22 describe a building under construction, not a gathering of friends. What does the building image say that the friendship image cannot?
- 7 Look at who does the verbs in this passage. Was the peace negotiated between the two groups, or made for them? By whom? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He listed preferences that divide people: politics, lifestyle, income. Handle those carefully.

- 8 A community built on personality collapses the moment someone disagrees. Where have you watched that happen?
- 9 Pastor Matt named politics, income, and lifestyle as things we let matter more than reconciliation. Which of those is hardest for you to hold loosely?
- 10 What is the difference between liking the people in your church and being built together with them?
- 11 Is there someone you have kept at arm's length over a preference rather than a conviction? OPTIONAL

The group together

This section is about this group specifically. Be concrete.

- 12 If this group is founded on Christ rather than compatibility, what should be true of us when we disagree?
- 13 Who would find it hard to belong in this group, and what would need to change for that not to be true?
- 14 What is one thing this group could do that a group built on preference would never bother with?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What relationship would you want to rebuild on something sturdier than how well you get along?

You might pray about

- For a community founded on Christ rather than on how well we match
- For the people we have quietly excluded over preferences
- For those who feel on the edge of this group
- For peace that was made rather than negotiated