

the Lord. If “God” in this passage is God the Father, then He does not have a literal dwelling [habitation] in the body of the saint, but a representative dwelling.) **in** (εν “cf, above” The KJV reads “through” the Spirit.) **the Spirit.** (πνευματι - loc. or instr. sing. of πνευμα “**1.** a movement of air, [gentle] blast ... **2.** the spirit, i.e. the vital principle by which the body is animated” [Thayer, p. 520] Both Jews and Gentiles are the building materials from which the temple is built. Again, we see the unity of both Jew and Gentile in the body [temple] or church of the Lord. Isaiah had prophesied that this would occur [Isa. 2:1-3]. The house of God is the church [1 Tim. 3:14-15].)

Who Are the Apostles and Prophets?

The most natural meaning of this (verse 20), in English, is that the apostles are one group and the prophets are another group. Since the apostles are mentioned first, the prophets would probably be the New Testament prophets. If the apostles and prophets are part of the foundation, it cannot be the Old Testament prophets (they were not part of the church). This is proven in Eph. 3:5.

To say that the apostles and prophets are the foundation is to use figurative language (a metaphor). Since language is normally literal, it must be a foundation that the apostles and prophets laid (i. e. their doctrine). The foundation laid by Paul was his doctrine (Rom. 15:18-21). The Greek text is probably saying that the apostles are a subset of the prophets. Daniel Wallace (pp. 278-280) writes:

Plural Personal Constructions

Theoretically, in fact, there are five possibilities for the plural TSKS¹ construction: (1) distinct groups, though united; (2)

¹ Article-substantive-και-substantive

overlapping groups; (3) first group subset of second; (4) second group subset of first; and (5) both groups identical. ...

d) First Group Subset of Second

When we say that the first group is a subset of the second, we mean that it is entirely subsumed within the second-named group.

Verse 20 has the TSKS construction. This probably means that the apostles were a subset of the prophets (the apostles who are also prophets). Wallace discusses this passage extensively (pp. 284-286).

Fox's Translation of Ephesians 2:19-22

Eph. 2:19-22 So then, you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but *you are* fellow-citizens of the saints and *with the* character of *the* household² of God, 20 after being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom all the building, is at that time being fitly framed together, grows unto a holy temple, in *the* Lord; 22 in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God, by *the* Spirit.³

FALLACIES

Some brethren reason that the church is the body of Christ and there is only one body; therefore, there is only one church. But they will not reason that the temple is the body of Christ (the church) and there is only one body; therefore, there is only one temple. The consistency of language within the Scriptures demands that once an expression is defined, that definition should apply as a general rule. The interpreter

² The Greek depicts that they belonged to and possessed the character of the household of God.

³ Or, by *the* spirit.

