

Ephesians 2:1-10

Ice Breaker: Who is the hardest person you know to give a gift for? How do you solve that?

OB- observation-what do you notice as you read through the verse-repeated words, the grammar or structure of the sentence in the context of the other sentences. INT- interpret- what does it mean by looking at the cross references, definition of words, what the original audience would have understood APP- application- what do we learn about God, what do I need to change, confess, grow in my walk with the Lord through this

To begin: Read through the passage and circle all the in, with, through, Christ and b. highlight the word **grace**

V1 OB Who is Paul talking to (“you”)? **Refer back to 1:22-23**

INT What does Paul mean by “dead” and why were we dead? Eph 4:18, Romans 5:12, 6:23 (many more)
(John 11:1-43- How dead was Lazarus?)

Since we are dead in sin, we are completely unable to trust God or His Word. Jesus repeatedly claims that we are powerless without Him (John 15:5) and that we cannot come to Him without God’s enabling (John 6:44). Paul teaches in Romans 8 that our natural minds cannot submit to God, nor please Him (verses 7-8). In our fallen state, we are incapable of even understanding the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14). Got questions

INT What are the trespasses and sins Paul is referring to? Romans 5:12, Matt 15:18-19
Commission- sins we purposely do vs omission - what we know to do and don’t do

APP How do we explain to others and even ourselves just how sinful we can be? Surely there are “good” people and we can do “good” things. How good do we have to be to stand before our Sovereign God. Before you were a believer, how did you measure “goodness” for yourself and others? Did you believe you were “good”? (For more study, see the reference at the end on “common grace” in God allowing good to fall on all people)

The contemporary cultural view is that though none of us are perfect, we are basically good. Paul is saying that the problem of corruption and sin is not added on to human nature. Rather, it penetrates to the very core, rendering us in a state of spiritual death. The problem is not that fallen man lacks a will. The problem is that he has no desire for God. The desires of man’s heart in his natural state are “only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). This does not mean that man is as wicked as he could possibly be. It means that sin has such a hold on us in our natural state that we never have a positive desire for Christ. We are born fallen; we are born at enmity with God. We are born opposed to God. And that is why, in our very nature, we are exposed to the wrath of God, and justly so. RC Sproul

V2 INT What does Paul mean by “once walked” 1 Cor 6:11. What other words could we use for “walk” here? Gal 5:16, 2 Cor. 5:7

INT Who is Paul referring to in this verse as prince and spirit? John 12:31, Gen 6:5, 2 Cor 4:4

INT Who are the sons of disobedience Romans 1:18?
<https://www.gotquestions.org/sons-of-disobedience>

V3 Ob Who are the “we all”?

OB What are the two reasons why we sin? INT Romans 3:10-18, Romans 5:12-15

a.

b.

APP If you are brought up in a Christian home, you often don't see your self as “that bad”. How do we share the gospel with our children that they are sinners. Isa 53:6, Rom 3:23. Yet we also know that the Holy Spirit is the one that convicts them of their sin. John 16:8-11 If you wish to share, when did you first realize you were a sinner?

On the other hand, many people believe that they are too evil for God to save them. Psalm 51- David lamenting his sin, the apostle Paul – 1 Timothy 1:15

“WE are not nice people who need to clean up our act but rebels who need to lay down our arms.” CS Lewis

V4 BUT GOD

“God's mercies are everything He has given us that we don't deserve: eternal love, eternal grace, the Holy Spirit, everlasting peace, eternal joy, saving faith, comfort, strength, wisdom, hope, patience, kindness, honor, glory, righteousness, security, eternal life, forgiveness, reconciliation, justification, sanctification, freedom, intercession and much more.

V4-5 Ob What did God do?

OB/INT Why did God do this?

a. Titus 3:5-7

b. 1 John 4

OB/INT When did God do this? Eph 1:3, Rom 5:6

INT How did God make us alive? Colossians 2:12-13

INT What have we been saved from and how? Romans 5:6-11

V6 OB What else did God do?

a. Gal. 2:20, (“Just as Christ was raised from the **dead**-so are we” Chappell)

b. 1 Peter 1:4

OB Why are we there? Because we are _____

V7 OB What is the purpose of God doing this? To whom ?

INT What are these riches and kindness (go back to Ephesians 1:3)

Describe immeasurable (see other translations)

Describe kindness (write as many synonyms as you can... amazing!!) Time to Praise God!!!

INT Rev. 7:10-12, Titus 3:4-8

V8-9 Please read this in the Amplified ⁸For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; ⁹not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation].

Define Grace:

How does this grace come? John 6:44 (Compassion...having pity and concern and then acting on it)

INT Define Faith Hebrews 11:1,

This definition of faith contains two aspects: intellectual assent and trust. Intellectual assent is believing something to be true. Trust is actually relying on the fact that the something is true. A chair is often used to help illustrate this. Intellectual assent is *recognizing* that a chair is a chair and *agreeing* that it is designed to support a person who sits on it. Trust is actually *sitting in the chair*. Understanding these two aspects of faith is crucial. Many people believe certain facts about Jesus Christ. Many people will *intellectually* agree with the facts the Bible declares about Jesus. But knowing those facts to be true is not what the Bible means by "faith." The biblical definition of faith requires intellectual assent to the facts *and* trust in the facts. gotquestions.org/definition-of-faith.html

INT What is the "this and the "it"

(There is much discussion on this but most agree it is both faith and grace)

OB Why is it not a result of works?

INT 1Timothy 1:9. Why are we not to boast?

By knowing our saving faith comes from God alone, it should encourage Christians to "not think of yourself more highly than you ought," but remember God decides the measure of faith each one receives (Romans 12:3). The apostle Paul gives an example of the godly humility believers should have when they contemplate their own faith: "Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:13-14). Paul understood faith in Christ was given to him because of God's grace in spite of his own sinful life (1 Corinthians 4:7). <https://www.gotquestions.org/where-does-faith-come-from.html>

V10

¹⁰For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].AMP

OB Whose are we? Ps.100:3

INT What does it mean to be created in Christ Jesus 2 Cor. 5:17, Col 3:1-15- (great passage to look at and we will be discussing this a lot more in future chapters so can save deeper discussion for that later.)

APP What does it mean to you to be a new creation? What does it mean to be born again? JOHN 3:5-8
How do you describe this to someone? Lots to discuss here

The act of God whereby He makes us alive from spiritual death is called **regeneration**. Regeneration is accomplished only by the Holy Spirit, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we are regenerated, we are made alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5) and renewed by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). It is like being born a second time, as Jesus taught Nicodemus in John 3:3, 7. Having been made alive by God, we will never truly die – we have eternal life. Jesus said often that to believe in Him is to have eternal life (John 3:16, 36; 17:3).

OB Why were we created and who created them?

APP We have a purpose given to us by God. We are in different seasons and stages in our lives, yet God has a purpose for us and we are to be obedient to that purpose. Each “walk” will look different though there are definite things we are all to obey: praying, studying the Bible, having fellowship with other believers, having communion and baptism with fellow believers, doing good to others.
What does it mean to you personally knowing YOU are God’s Workmanship... and that He has prepared specific works for you?

Romans 11:33-36 ³³ Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

³⁴ For who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? Isaiah 40:13

³⁵ And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

³⁶ For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever!

To glorify God is not to bestow glory on God or add to His glory, but to recognize and acknowledge His glory. The basic meaning of the word *glory* is “heavy in weight.” It is the “weighty importance and shining majesty that accompany God’s presence.”* The verb *glorify* means “to give weight to” or “to honor.” Thus, to glorify God is to recognize God for who He really is and to respond appropriately

If you wish to know more about COMMOM GRACE

<https://www.epm.org/resources/2023/Nov/8/common-grace/>