

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

ID: Discovering Our True Identity in Christ

“Changed” Ephesians 2: 1-10

Ken Dryden, October 5, 2014

Sermon Summary

People often talk about things that will “change your life”. Millions of dollars are spent on products and programs that promise to change us. But is it all just hype? Even in the church we often talk about how God has changed our lives but is it really true? Does God still change people’s lives and if so how does he do it? Last week we talked about our identity as a people who have been “blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms” and who have been chosen, adopted, forgiven, free, recipients of an inheritance. It wasn’t always like that though. In Chapter 2 of Ephesians, Paul paints a picture of stark contrasts - a “before and after” picture of what He has done in our lives. Ephesians 2: 1-10 contrasts: 1. Two spiritual conditions: death & life 2. Two ways of living (ways of the world/Satan & ways of God) 3. Two approaches to salvation: Works and Grace. From beginning to end this radical reclamation project is by grace. The result in the lives of those whom God has saved by the riches of His grace is something that will be a sign to all creation of the glory of God.

Key Verse: *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2: 8-10*

Bottom Line: “Grace Works”

Group Discussion Questions:

Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 twice, pausing between readings.

1. What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?

This passage contains three main segments: 1. Verses 1-3 focus on fallen man, and his hopeless condition as a result of his sin. 2. Verses 4-6 focus on God, and on His mercy and grace in making a provision for man’s salvation in Christ. 3. Verses 7-10 focus on the purpose of salvation.

2. Dictionary.com defines “Changed” as a verb: to make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone.

How do you feel God has “changed” you from what you would have been if left alone?

3. How do you feel when you read the words, “But God ...” in verse 4?

4. In verse 10, Paul declares that you are God’s greatest piece of work, his “masterpiece”!

- What is one specific area where you can see how Christ has “changed” you, so you can do the good works He prepared for you?
- How do you recognize the works God prepared for you in your life?
- What are you going to do differently this week? (Record the groups answers for check-in next week)

Pray: for the courage and opportunity to “do” the good works God prepared in advance for you.

Make sure to leave time to pray for one another!