

ONE - Study of Ephesians

Part 3 - Amazing Grace

In the first chapter, Paul unpacks who God really is, God's identity and great power. Paul wanted his readers (the Ephesians and us today) to know that the same power that rose Jesus from the dead, is the power that is at work within us who believe and that we have access to at any time.

In the second chapter of this letter, Paul shifts to unpack our identity...

Ephesians 2:1-10

Once You Were... Ephesians 2:1-3

In these initial verses, Paul reminds the reader – “You were dead!”



Paul is not talking about physical death – rather, spiritual death.

Our spirit cannot, in a literal sense, actually die; because our spirit is an eternal being. What Paul means by death is actually the disconnection and separation of our spirit from God!

+ Genesis 1-3

With the rebellion of Adam, sin entered and fractured everything, disconnecting us from the Almighty God, from which comes our source of life, causing us to be removed from the presence of God, leaving us in conflict with God and one another. This was the moment spiritual death happened.

The world is under the command and control of the devil –

+ Ephesians 2:3

+ 1 John 5:19

The truth is Christ is the great equaliser when it comes to forming identity!

Paul here, is reminding them that in Christ, we have an identity available to us that is received not achieved.

But God... Ephesians 2:4-9

God, through Christ Jesus' obedience and faithfulness, made us the object of His great love, incredible wealth of His grace, incomparable kindness and rich mercy!

Mercy is compassion shown to an undeserving person. If you don't deserve compassion, yet receive it anyway, you are receiving mercy! In short, mercy is God withholding what we do deserve.

Grace, on the other hand, is unmerited favour, receiving without earning or deserving it. Grace is God giving what we don't deserve.

God's love overflows with both grace and mercy.

+ Ephesians 2:1-10

+ Romans 8:38-39

Did you know that the only thing that can actually separate you from God, is your own rebellion, your own refusal to trust God completely!

What is a Christian?

Christ who became the one and only mediator – intermediary – the Great High Priest who reconciled (brought back together) a Holy Just God and a guilty sinful fallen humanity.

This is now our Identity – changed in a moment... An identity that went from being DEAD IN our trespasses and sins, to an identity found alive IN Christ!

Throughout Paul's writings, not just in Ephesians, he teaches into the work of the Holy Spirit.

- + 2 Corinthians 4:1, 3-6

It is the Holy Spirit who opens the eyes of the heart to begin the transforming work of conviction and repentance and building faith!

This deep transforming work of the Holy Spirit is a process, a life-long journey of being made into His image, into Christlikeness and dying to self-daily, that will not be fully realised or completed this side of heaven.

We Are... Ephesians 2:10

Then Paul concludes with the transition to where we (those who have believed in Christ and received His Grace) are today, because of what God has done; and the purpose for which He saved us!

- + Philippians 1:6
- + Psalm 116:12

While it is faith alone that JUSTIFIES – the faith that JUSTIFIES is not alone!

- + James 2:17
- + Mark 10:45

Challenge

Do you choose to believe in this God of love, that His grace, mercy and kindness is directed towards you?

What will be your response to his gift of Love?

Will your Yes to Jesus be followed by a life of faith, obedience and holiness, allowing Holy Spirit access to your heart and mind to continue the transformation into Christlikeness?

Discussion Questions

1. How do the World, the Evil one and our Flesh influence people to sin?
2. Why would we be called the object of God's wrath?
3. What caused God to bring forth salvation through Christ Jesus?
4. What makes it possible to exchange judgement for forgiveness?
5. Sanctification is the change and transformation journey that God, through Holy Spirit, makes in our lives from the moment of salvation until we see Him face to face... Why do believers still struggle with sin when we have put off our old sinful nature? How can believers have victory over sin? What does it mean to say, 'We must choose to die to self every day'?
6. According to Ephesians 2:10, what are the good works God has created for us to do?