



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Ephesians 2:1-22

(Memory Verse)

Ephesians 2:8-9 *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

(Ephesians 2:1-3): **1** And you [He made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Question: What does it mean to have a condition where you are dead in your trespasses and sins, and what did you do to acquire that condition?

Question: Why is it so vitally important for us to understand that God is the only one that can change our *dead in sin* condition, and make us fully alive?

Question: At it's core, how does disobedience to God affect our conduct, desires, and thoughts?

Question: How do the phrases from verses 2 and 3, *once walked* and *once conducted* impact our understanding of man's repentance, and God's sanctification?

(Ephesians 2:4-7): 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Question: How does God's great love, and riches of mercy interject themselves into the lives of sinful man?

Question: How does God's grace *usher in* salvation to the world, and *usher out* works based righteousness?

Question: How does God show us the exceeding riches of His grace, and kindness towards us who are in Christ Jesus?

(Ephesians 2:8-9): 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Question: Today, you will hear people referring to someone as being a *person of faith*, or an organization being a *faith-based organization*. How can we effectively communicate the distinction between the phrases: *through faith*, and *not of yourselves* when it comes to works based religions?

Question: How does recognizing that you have received the *gift of salvation*, and have not earned it remove spiritual arrogance?

(Ephesians 2:10): **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Question: How does knowing that you are God's workmanship bring value and purpose to your life, and encouragement when things do not seem to be going the way they ought to be going?

Question: How does beginning to comprehend that God, beforehand, has prepared us for good works fit in with the world's perspective of embracing sin that you cannot conquer as who you are?

(Ephesians 2:11-16): **11** Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- **12** that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, **15** having abolished in His flesh the enmity, [that is], the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man [from] the two, [thus] making peace, **16** and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Question: Why is acknowledging the role of God's grace so necessary for the Christian to walk humbly before the Lord, and to avoid any form of condescending attitudes upon those that are without Christ?

Question: How does the grace of God put to death enmity, and unite people from all different cultures, backgrounds, and languages?

Question: The world would seek to obtain the promises and blessings of God apart from the promise of the Messiah — Jesus. How do God's blessings, and promises to His people go *hand-in-hand* with faith in Jesus?

(Ephesians 2:17-22): **17** And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. **18** For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. **19** Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner[stone], **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Question: In the context of verse 17, who would be the ones considered *afar off*, and who would be considered *near*?

Question: When it comes to salvation, how is it irrelevant if you're close, or near to obtaining salvation?

Question: What happens to our right standing before God when we try to lay our foundation of righteousness with our own good works?