

Born Again: By His Grace, For His Glory

Gospel Identity

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Overview

The book of Ephesians is all about identity: who we are and how we should live because of who we are. After celebrating our identity in Christ in chapter 1, Ephesians 2:1-10 reminds us of who we were before Christ and how our identity has been transformed. *How can children of wrath become children of God?* The answer to that question unfolds through four key phrases: You were... But God... By grace... We are.

Notes

1. **You Were...** *Dead in Sin* (vv. 1-3)
 - a. The Way of the World
 - b. The Influence of the Devil
 - c. The Passions of the Flesh

2. **But God...** *Made Us Alive with Christ* (vv. 4-7)
 - a. Rich Mercy
 - b. Great Love
 - c. Immeasurable Grace

3. **By Grace...** *You have been Saved* (vv. 8-9)
 - a. By Grace
 - b. Through Faith

4. **We Are...** *God's Workmanship* (v. 10)
 - a. Created for Good Works
 - b. Walk in Good Works (4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15)

Reflection Questions

1. If you are not a Christian, what is keeping you from accepting God's gift of salvation?
2. If you are a Christian, how would you explain the gospel from this passage (in one minute or less!) to someone who is not a Christian?
3. Why does Paul paint such a grim picture of our identity apart from God?
4. What good works has God prepared for us to walk in? (Explore the rest of Ephesians for ideas, starting with 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15.)
5. Where are you most aware of your need for the Spirit's power to help you walk that way?

Prayer Prompts

1. Praise God for his rich mercy, great love, and immeasurable grace!
2. Confess to God where you are still walking in old ways instead of in the good works he has created you for in Jesus.
3. Ask God to strengthen you with power through his Spirit (Eph 3:16) so you can walk in the good works he has prepared for you.
4. Ask God to save people you know who are still "children of wrath."