

CITYWEST CHURCH

21.09.2025 - 10AM

EPHESIANS PART #2

SENT FROM GOD'S GRACE

2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. 7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 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 2:1-10 NLT

GRACE - I don't deserve God giving all of himself to me but he does because HE chooses to.

God chose to step in - does he have to?

God's grace is the giving of his mercy, love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness toward us.

God chose to forgive even when he can be angry about it. - Though wrath should come, saving grace comes instead.

It's free. It's abundant.

Faith is our response. (Grace is through faith - the response in man which accepts the offer of God's grace.)

EPHESUS - saw the problems of life and said “WE CAN FIX IT OURSELVES” - how, with POWER.
Spiritual, political, economic.

HUMAN HISTORY - It's a human problem to look at the problems of sin and disobedience and say “we can fix it ourselves”

US - do we try and fix ourselves

LIVE COUNTER-CULTURAL - god's grace calls us to live a different life that leads to us being sent out.

MISSION FLOWS FROM IDENTITY - Paul is first trying to make sure their understanding of themselves in light of what God was doing was right. He wanted them to understand they can't earn God's grace but they do have responsibility to accepting it.

HOW DOES GOD'S GRACE SEND US OUT?

1. FROM DEATH TO LIFE

5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:5-6 NLT

YOU WERE ONCE DEAD BUT NOW YOU HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST WHEN YOU ACCEPTED GOD'S GRACE THAT'S TOWARDS EVERYONE.

We start with the fact that we were dead. Like a detached leaf.

God's grace was shown through Jesus. - his death and resurrection show God's grace.

Because of God's grace - you are now made alive - resurrection + new heart (inside out)

What is the life? Highest quality of human life that God imagined.

That resurrection life starts now though. Be made alive in Christ in your life now. You are a citizen of heaven.

In Greco-Roman culture, favors (charis, “grace”) worked on a patronage system: a wealthy patron gave “grace” to clients, who owed loyalty.

The challenge is that we live in the inbetween - sin still exists and we're waiting for Jesus to come back.

Do I live in this identity of being alive and secure?

11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11 NLT

You don't have to live by the standards of the life previously. You are a new creation.

Live in the camp of being alive to God through Christ Jesus.

2. BOAST IN GOD NOT YOURSELF

7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. 8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:7-9 NLT

WE LIVE LIVES NOW AS AN EXAMPLE OF GOD'S GRACE IN OUR LIVES TO BOAST OF GOD'S MIGHTY WORK TO GENERATIONS TO COME.

I'm not just waiting for resurrection - "cheap grace" - heaven's ticket and I'll live my life how I'd like it.

Does my life reflect the kind of highest quality life that comes from God's grace?

You become an example of this - God's incredible wealth of grace.

Who to? The generations that are coming. All future ages.

Does my life now boast of God's grace?

24 But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!

Jeremiah 9:24 NLT

SNAKE OIL SALESMAN - roman world was full of people boasting about their way

Explains God's delight to be gracious and that we should boast in him!

It's not about you taking credit for it. This is an ancient greek thing to do - boast in self.

Do I give God the time to demonstrate these attributes?

3. STEP INTO GOOD WORKS

10 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 2:10 NLT

WE BECOME GOD'S MASTERPIECE AS HE WORKS IN OUR LIVES BUT THAT MEANS WE HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD WHICH GOD HAS BEEN DREAMING AND PLANNING FOR ALL OF HISTORY

Which side do you stand on - we live in the camp of God's kingdom.

New humanity - *Artemius temple* was 7th wonder of the ancient world - built by humans with the intent to solve their problems.

What does the new humanity look like? Highest quality of humanity together! CORPORATELY - living in the rule and reign of Christ. INDIVIDUALLY - play your part.

God asks us to contribute now through grace.

Grace also assigned to those who are saved special tasks in the service of God.

You are called to build the new humanity in partnership with God. God always says to be fruitful in your life
- PEOPLE ARE THE FRUIT HERE

God's grace equips you.

God has sent me somewhere to be each day. Who has God sent me to?

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Looking back, how would you describe the difference between your life before Christ and after Christ?
2. What practices help you regularly shift the focus from yourself back to God?
3. What relationships, workplaces, or communities could be transformed if you intentionally lived as God's "masterpiece"?