

Ephesians for Everyman: *Identity Crisis*

Week Two: Ephesians 2

Many of us forget where we were when Christ found us, we forget who we were when Christ found us. We can wrongly believe that we are _____, spiritually speaking.

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 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. 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.” - Ephesians 2:1-3

We were not mostly dead, misinformed, misguided or lost. We were not sick and in need of healing, we were _____.

Why? Because we were naive? Ignorant? No! According to the scripture, we were dead because of our _____ and _____.

Remembering that we too were once dead, objects of God’s wrath, living like the “rest of the world” does some important work in our hearts.

- It gives us _____ as we minister to those who are lost
- It gives us _____ as we trust the power of the Holy Spirit
- It gives us _____ as we endeavor to share the Good News

“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 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!) 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 2:4-6

The Gospel is different than any other "religion" where "bad people" desperately try and connect with a "Good God". The Gospel is the one true and Good God reaching down to us (bad people). And what was His motivator?

The richness of His _____, and the depth of His _____.

"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." - Ephesians 2:8-9

When were we saved? The moment we cleaned our lives up? The moment we joined a Bible study? When we kicked all our bad habits? When we started tithing and attending church? No...when _____!

"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

Whenever we seek to join God in what He is up to in this world, we can be wrongly tempted to do something _____ God, rather than doing something _____ God.

"While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him." Matthew 4:18-20 (ESV).

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5.

Jesus prioritized _____ over _____.

God brought us Unity _____, and Unity
_____ in Christ.

*"But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ."
Ephesians 2:13*

"So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit." Ephesians 2:19-22