

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****Alive Together with Christ**

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

**OVERVIEW**

Everything—literally everything—in heaven and on earth is being united in Christ (1:10). Only when we understand who Christ is can we begin to understand who we are. We often read Paul’s letters thinking about all Scripture calls us to do. But before Ephesians calls us to do anything, it reminds us what God has done in Christ.

Our identity is not based on what we do, but who we are. Our identity is not earned and achieved but declared and received. Our identity, as Christians, is found “in Christ.” We are united to Christ—and that changes everything about us! Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus explains what we were (apart from Christ), who we are (in Christ), and then how we should live as followers of Christ, all for the glory of Christ.

**APPLY // EPHESIANS 1:15-23**

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-23.
2. After declaring what’s true of the saints in Ephesus (verses 3-14), Paul then tells the Ephesians he’s praying that they would experience what is true of them. How does this apply to our lives? How does this passage inform how we can pray for our fellow brothers and sisters at Restoration Church (and those at other churches)?
3. How can we help each other remember and experience the hope and inheritance we have in Christ? How can we help each other remember and experience the power of Christ toward us?
4. Have the group share a couple stories of how they have experienced the immeasurable power of Christ?
  - a. These stories can be how they have personally experienced Jesus’ power or seen it at work in the lives of others.
  - b. Remember, every person who has faith in Jesus has experienced this power! So, you can have a couple people share their testimony. If you do this, you may want to ask them beforehand to prepare.

**STUDY // EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10
2. Identify any repeated words, phrases or ideas.

3. Identify any connecting or transition words or phrases? What's the structure of this passage?
  4. Summarize this passage in one or two sentences.
  5. How does this passage describe us apart from Christ? Discuss the terms in verses 1-3 (be careful of stock Christian phrases—take time to unpack ideas like “dead in sin.”).
  6. Notice how verse 4 starts—what are the first two words? How does verse 4 shape our understanding of the gospel?
  7. What do verses 4-9 tell us about the character of God?
  8. How does this passage describe us “in Christ”? Discuss what it means to be raised with Christ and seated with him.
  9. According to verse 7, why does God make us alive in Christ?
  10. What do verses 8-9 tell us about our salvation? According to verse 9, what's the result of our grace-based salvation? What type of boasting is Paul talking about here? Is there any type of boasting that is good (cf. Gal. 6:14)?
  11. Contrast verse 1 and verse 10. What were we walking in according to verse 1? What are we walking in according to verse 10? What are the good works Paul is talking about? Why are good works an important part of the Christian's life?
  12. Why is it important to realize the works of verse 10 come after the grace-based salvation of verses 8-9?
- General Bible study questions:
    - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Follow up on previous weeks. Spend time praying that our church would know and joyfully experience the hope, inheritance and power we have in Jesus Christ.