

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**One in Christ**

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

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 2:1-10

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-2:10.
2. Why are we tempted to ignore or minimize Paul’s diagnosis of us in 2:1-3? Why is it important that we do not run too quickly past these verses? What’s the danger in focusing too much on these verses?
3. Read 2:4-7 again. How do these verses help you love God more? How does Paul explain everything done by sin is undone by the gospel?
4. Discuss how 2:1-10 helps us experience what Paul prays for in 1:15-23.
5. How do these gospel truths prompt/equip you to invest in the lives of other Restoration Church members? How do they encourage you to share the gospel with the lost?
6. Verses 8-10 explain we are saved by faith alone, but saving faith does not remain alone. How can we encourage each other toward good works while reminding each other we are not saved by those works?
7. Have one person share his/her testimony. Celebrate the “But God...” in this person’s life.
8. Pray that Restoration Church would see more people have “But God” stories.

STUDY // EPHESIANS 2:11-22

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 2:11-22.

2. What are the main themes of these verses? How are they connected to what Paul has already written?
 3. According to verse 12, what does Paul want the Ephesians to remember? In what sense were the Gentiles separated from God? What privileges were they excluded from?
 4. Notice the contrast at the beginning of verse 13. What point is Paul making in this verse?
 5. How do verses 14-16 describe what Christ did according to verse 13?
 6. What does it mean that Christ “abolished the law of commandments expressed in ordinances”?
 7. In verses 18-19, what’s the result of Christ’s work?
 8. Identify the ways this passage speaks to reconciliation vertically with God and horizontally with others.
 9. How does Ephesians 2:19 contrast with verse Ephesians 2:12? What privileges come with being in God’s household?
 10. How does the end of Chapter 2 further describe God’s household? What is it comprised of and what is its purpose?
- 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: Confess sin. Apply “But God...”