

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Ephesians 2:1-22

Supporting Texts: John 6:44-50; Romans 9:24-26; Hosea 2:18-23; Philippians 4:6-7

MAIN IDEA: We were dead. But God's grace has made us alive.

OBSERVE

Read Ephesians 2: 1-22

How does Paul describe the Ephesians Christians before they trusted Christ? *Dead. Following the spirit [Satan] at work in the sons of disobedience (v. 1-2).*

What did God do for those spiritually dead people and for us? *Made us alive with Christ and raised up with him in the heavenly places. (v. 6).*

According to this passage, what is Christ for us? *Our peace. (v. 14).*

At the end of this passage, Paul describes the church as a building. What is Christ in that building? *The chief cornerstone. (v. 20).*

INTERPRET

Read John 6:44-50. With that passage in mind what is the significance of us being dead spiritually prior to Christ's saving grace? *Dead people cannot do anything toward causing our own salvation. Even our ability to place faith in Christ is a gift of grace.*

What does Paul mean in verse 19 that we are no longer strangers and aliens? *The Gentile Christians who were not part of God's people Israel are now made part of God's people. (Consider looking at these verses as well - Romans 9:24-26; Hosea 2:18-23).*

RESPOND

How does understanding that you were dead and helpless in your sin, help you appreciate God's grace more?

Does Ephesians 2:13-18 cause you to re-think the commonalities that are most important between you and other people? *The common inheritance and brotherhood in Christ we share between Christians is far superior to anything else we might share with an unbeliever. We have more in common with a Christian we've never met, than our unsaved friend we've known our whole life.*

APPLY

Ephesians 2:10 says we were created to walk in good works. What are practical ways we can seek to walk in good works and overcome sin?

Ephesians 2:14 says Christ is our peace. What should we do when we don't feel peace? *Remind ourselves that whether we feel it or not, Christ has brought us peace with God. We are no longer under his wrath. Also pray. (Philippians 4:6-7).*