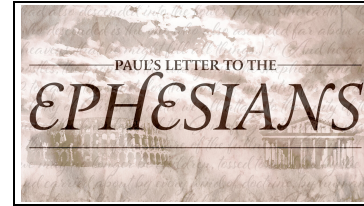


Notes:



How you actually
become a Christian.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Community Group Questions:

1. Can you playback the journey of these three stages on page 1?
2. Describe how you walked through each of the three steps on page 2.
3. Romans chapter 5:8 we see God's demonstration of His love for us. In Ephesian 2:10 we see God's design for us, how do you "grow" going forward?
4. Since it is God who is at work in you, how does that change your perspectives on life's hardships and tragedies?

I. What We Were

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You 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. ³All 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. Verses 1-3

II. What We Are

⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that 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!) ⁶For 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... ⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ... Verses 4-6,8,9

III. What We Will Be

⁷So 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.... ¹⁰For 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. Verses 7&10

In verses 8–10, Paul is telling us in these three verses how you actually become a Christian.

1st step- *Grace is favor given to someone who deserves the opposite.*

God saved you by his grace... Ephesians 2:8a

2nd step- *Grace leads to faith.*

God saved you by his *grace* when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8

3rd step- *Bible tells us faith leads to what's called "good works."*

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

Two things always result from grace and faith.

You become God's "*workmanship*",
and as a result of that,
"*you live differently.*"

He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things. Vs.10

- **Being comes before doing**

If you're going to be a person like Christ,
God has to give you a nature like Christ, and he does.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:3,4

It means if you're a Christian, you're changing. You're growing.
But a work of art that requires your ongoing participation.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:5

When Lord forfeited his life on the cross for you,

He didn't just say, "*I'm going to die just so you know I love you.*"

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

He said, "*I'm going to die, for your splendor too. I'm going to turn you into something beautiful.*"

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

"There is nothing God wants more than for me to be holy."

Therefore, in God's providential care?

The troubles in your life are his chisel.

Because you're God's masterpiece, there are particular works only you can do. There are people only you can help.
He has prepared them for you beforehand.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God ..."

Ephesians 2:8