

Sermon-Based Discussion

Date 10/2/22 Bryce Taylor

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BIBLE PASSAGES

Ephesians 2

By Grace Through Faith

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body^a and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.^b ⁴But^c God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

One in Christ

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,^d but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by^e the Spirit.

Other Scripture: Psalm 51:55, 2 Timothy 2:21

Group Discussion & Life Challenge

Use these notes as discussion prompts for your group, or in your personal time with God.

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight.

- 1) If someone asks you in an elevator to describe grace, and you only have 30 seconds, how would you describe it?
- 2) Pastor Bryce described grace as God's unmerited favor towards us, in us, and working through us. As you look back on your life, how have you seen God's unmerited favor?
- 3) If the Bible describes you as God's "handiwork" or "workmanship", how does that help illustrate God's relationship with you and His desire for you? Go a step further and explore how important this is in relation to your understanding of who God is?
- 4) When is it hardest for you to be gracious with others, and why?
- 5) Take a moment to write down and share with the group your plan for modeling "Great Grace" to others. Will you demonstrate this at work, home, in your marriage, or as you volunteer?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS