



**WEST
SIDE
CHURCH**

The Text

Week 3

Sermon Series: Blueprints for Discipleship

Sermon Title: True Identity

Sermon Text: Ephesians 2:4-10

Study Handout Week of: January 15, 2022

Group Week of: January 22, 2023

Sermon Date: January 29, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Spiritual Death – Ephesians 2:1-3
Day 2	Credit versus Wages – Romans 4:1-12
Day 3	Salvation – Ephesians 1:3-14
Day 4	No Boasting – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Day 5	Good Deeds – Titus 2:11-14

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message that God is speaking through Paul to the Ephesians (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) What is the “gift of God” in verse 8?
- 3) How does a Christian become God’s “handiwork”?
- 4) Why does God make Christians into His “handiwork”?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Read Ephesians 2:1-3, and explain what it means to be *spiritually dead*.
- 2) How can anyone be made spiritually alive?
- 3) Spend some time reflecting on your own conversion story. Where do you see yourself being *spiritually dead* and God making you *spiritually alive*? Share your spiritual rebirth with your life group.
- 4) Imagine that you have a born-again friend who struggles to believe that God loves them. How would you encourage that believer to be sure of God's love for them? While you can use any passage in your answer, try to incorporate Ephesians 2:4 as well.
- 5) Ephesians 2 tells us that we are saved by grace. Nevertheless, we, like the Jews, often feel the need to be righteous before God so that we can earn His love. Where does trying to be righteous to earn God's love, acceptance, or approval show up in your life?
- 6) When we find ourselves in a pattern of trying to earn God's approval, we often burn ourselves out trying to please Him and then hide from Him because we know that we are ultimately unable to be righteous in His sight. What are the ways in which you run from God and hide your sin from Him?
- 7) Instead of trying to be righteous and running away when you sin, what can you do to celebrate and embrace the salvation and relationship you have with God?
- 8) The believer who has been brought into new life with Christ is called "God's handiwork." Psalm 139:14 reminds us that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." How does knowing that you are a masterpiece of the Creator of the universe make you feel? How does it change your shame and guilt?
- 9) Paul reminds us that, as God's handiwork, we have been made for good works. Are you living up to the purpose that God has for you? How can you grow in that this week?