

Life and Reconciliation in Christ

Injustice and sin are rampant in our world. And much of it flows from humanity's sinful inclination to literally and metaphorically build walls to exclude others. In Ephesians 2, the Apostle Paul discusses this human tendency. He reminds us that before Christ we were spiritually dead, and without Christ, we continue to be so. But Paul seeks also to energize our faith in the midst of discouraging circumstances. He unpacks the profound truth of God's grace so we can find hope in God's gift of life to us through Jesus Christ. But God doesn't just break the curse of sin and then leave us alone; no, says Paul, God draws near. Join us as we reflect on Paul's assurance that, in Jesus Christ, God's grace is abundant and in it, we can find justice, reconciliation, and belonging in God's family.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What does it mean to be spiritually dead?
- Identify a few contexts in which we use the word "reconcile." Consider its meaning in each context. Do any of these contexts or meanings offer a particular nuance that broadens your understanding of what it means to experience "reconciliation"?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Life and Reconciliation in Christ](#)

READ [Ephesians 2](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- About 6 minutes into the episode, hosts Scott Hoeszee and Darrell Delaney describe what it means to be spiritually dead. Was there anything in their discussion that surprised you? Was their description similar or different to the definition you gave before listening?
- In segment 2, Darrell says that what distinguished the Jews from the Gentiles in the church in Ephesus was no longer as important as "their identity in the family of God and the body of Christ." What does it mean and what do you think it looks like to prioritize identity and belonging in the family of God over that which separates us? How do we, the church, do this well today? In what ways are we falling short?
- In segment 2, Scott and Darrell discuss literal and metaphorical dividing lines between people and how the church has sometimes been guilty of helping build or prop up the walls between people groups. Where and how do you see this kind of division today? From your perspective, what role is the church (local or global) playing in the building, propping up, or dismantling those walls? As Christians and followers of Christ, what can we do to work against this human tendency to build walls and divide people groups?

- In segment 3, Scott says, “you were dead, and then a couple of verses later, you were objects of wrath, and now we end the same chapter by saying: You are the walking, talking, living, breathing temple of the Holy Spirit! God wants to live inside you through the Spirit.” Reflect on this movement of transformation in [Ephesians 2](#). What is your natural reaction to this truth of what it means to be transformed? What are the implications of this transformation for you personally and for God’s whole family or kingdom?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Jonah 4](#), [Matthew 1](#), [Isaiah 49:6](#), [Matthew 28:16-20](#), [Galatians 3:23-29](#), [Romans 8:1-17](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on Darrell’s words from segment 3:

“What is beautiful is that God seems to be moving closer and closer in creation...He is out there creating, but that is not close enough. So, he walks with Adam in the cool of the day, that is not close enough. He gives them a tent and a tabernacle, that is not close enough. He gives them a temple, that is not close enough. At Pentecost he gives his Spirit inside, that is still not close enough. He is trying to get as close as he can to believers to encourage them that he is working, that he is in them, that he is among them; and now he is applying that to not just Jews, but to Gentiles as well in this new humanity.” (19:50)

What did you feel as you reflected on this truth? Maybe thankfulness, awe, discomfort, disbelief, or unworthiness? In prayer, share your reaction with God. Discuss with him what you’ve learned from Ephesians 2 and what it has stirred in you. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s continued presence to help you grow in understanding and in your relationship with him.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/life-and-reconciliation-in-christ>

Printed on November 23, 2024