

I.D.

“Ephesians – A Journey of Identification”

“I Am Alive”

“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.” Ephesians 2:4-5a NLT

A. “Once you were dead” with outside influences...

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You 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. Vs 1-2

1. You were dead because you were following the ways of this world.
2. You were dead because you were following the “prince of power of the air.”
3. You were dead because you were following the spirit of disobedience.

B. “Once you were dead” with inside influences...

“All 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.” Vs 3

1. You were dead because you followed and satisfied the craving of your sinful nature.
2. You were dead because you followed the desires of your sinful nature.
3. You were dead because you followed the thoughts of your sinful nature.

C. “Once you were dead” because...

1. You were an outsider to the gospel as a Gentile.
“Don’t forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders.” Vs 11a
2. You were living apart from Christ.
“In those days you were living apart from Christ.” Vs 12a

3. You were excluded from citizenship, you were foreigners, and you were strangers.

“You were excluded from citizenship...you (were)...strangers and foreigners.” Vs 12b,19b

4. You did not know the promises of God.

“...you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them.” Vs 12b

5. You were without God and without hope.

“You lived in this world without God and without hope.” Vs 12c

When you are dead, what can you do to bring yourself to life?

Nothing!

D. But now...

1. Because God is rich in mercy!

“But God is so rich in mercy...” Vs 4a

2. Because God is great in love!

“...and he loved us so much,” Vs 4b

3. Because God is full of grace!

“(It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)” Vs 5b

4. Because God has an incomparable amount of riches in grace and riches in kindness...**He gives us life!**

“...he incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us...” Vs 7b

E. But now...

1. He seats us with Him in heavenly realms.

“For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms...” Vs 6a

2. We become an example of His grace.

“So God can point to us in all future ages as examples...” Vs 7a

3. We are united with Christ and are brought near to Him.

“But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near...” Vs 13a

4. We have peace.

“For Christ himself has brought peace to us.” Vs 14a

5. We are united with all believers.

“He united Jews and Gentiles into one people...” Vs 14b

6. We are a part of one body.

“Together as one body...” Vs 16a

7. We are part of a family.

“You are members of God’s family.” Vs 19b

8. We are God’s house or His dwelling place.

“We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.” Vs 21

9. Jesus is our Cornerstone!

“And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.” Vs 20b

F. It all comes by grace...

1. Salvation is a gift of God.

“...it is a gift from God...” Vs 8b

- a. It is not a reward.

“Salvation is not a reward...” Vs 9a

- b. It is not by works.

“Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done...” Vs 9a

- c. So, there is no boasting!

“...so none of us can boast about it.” Vs 9b

2. Salvation is given because of His grace.

“God saved you by his grace...” Vs 8a

3. Salvation is received through faith.

“...when you believed.” Vs 8b

4. The works are then the evidence of our faith and fulfill the purpose for which He created us!

“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.” Vs 10

May 28, 2017 “I Am a Servant” *Ephesians 3:1-21*

June 4, 2017 “I Am United” *Ephesians 4:1-16*

June 11, 2017 “I Am Filled” *Ephesians 4:17-5:20*

June 18, 2017 “I Am Related” *Ephesians 5:21-6:9*

June 25, 2017 “I Am a Warrior” *Ephesians 6:10-24*