



Ephesians Notes

Chapter 2 - A Community of Grace



Chapter Summary

In this chapter we see how God saved the individual and calls them to be in a community of grace, united around Christ, the cross, and the Gospel.

Leader Instruction

Use this time to focus on the Gospel and how it should enable us as the body to unite with all races, classes, and cultures.

Note: This is just an outline of the chapter please study and be creative in your presentation and discussion



Notes

Intro:

Ephesians 2:1-3

- Some people do not believe in sin. They believe it is a fabrication on the part of religion order to control people with fear.
- Moral relativism - the belief that wrong and right are relative. That there is no wrong or right.

1. Question: Why is it important to know what sin is and how it effects us?
2. Question: Why is it important to the Gospel that we know what sin is?

The Sinful man:

1. He is Dead in sins (vs. 1)

- A corpse does not hear the conversation going on in the funeral parlor. He has no appetite for food or drink; he feels no pain; he is dead. Just so with the inner man of the unsaved person. His spiritual faculties are not functioning, and they cannot function until God gives him life. The cause of this spiritual death is “trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1). “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).¹

2. He is disobedient (vs. 2-3)

•SINS INFLUENCES.

1. World Systems – the values and attitudes of the world convince you to obey them instead of God. You followed the world (vs. 2)

¹Wiersbe, W. W. 1996, c1989. The Bible exposition commentary (Eph 2:1). Victor Books: Wheaton, Ill.



2. SATAN - Followed Satan (vs. 2) - One of Satan's chief tools for getting people to disobey God is lies. He is a liar ([John 8:44](#)), and it was his lie at the beginning of human history, "Ye shall not surely die," that plunged the human race into sin. The unsaved multitudes in today's world system disobey God because they believe the lies of Satan. When a person believes and practices a lie, he becomes a child of disobedience.²
3. The flesh and its desires (vs. 3) – By the flesh Paul does not mean the body, because of itself, the body is not sinful. The flesh refers to that fallen nature that we were born with, that wants to control the body and the mind and make us disobey God³
 - all you have to have is kids to understand by nature children of wrath. (ILLUSTRATIONS:
4. He is depraved –
 1. The lost sinner lives to please the "desires of the flesh and the wishes of the mind" (literal translation). His actions are sinful because his appetites are sinful. When you apply the word depraved to the unsaved person, you are not saying that he only does evil, or that he is incapable of doing good. You are simply saying that he is incapable of doing anything to merit salvation or meet the high standards of God's holiness.
5. He is doomed – (v. 3c). By nature, children of wrath! By deed, children of disobedience! The unsaved person is condemned already ([John 3:18](#)). Man cannot save himself.

"BUT GOD"

- He loves us (vs. 4)
- He revives us (vs. 5)

²Wiersbe, W. W. 1996, c1989. The Bible exposition commentary (Eph 2:1). Victor Books: Wheaton, Ill.

³Wiersbe, W. W. 1996, c1989. The Bible exposition commentary (Eph 2:1). Victor Books: Wheaton, Ill.



- He exalts us (vs. 6)
- He works in us (vs. 10)
- He works through us (vs. 10)

He creates a new community – (vs. 14-22)

Let's take this great truth to heart and seek oneness with our fellow Christians whatever their race or background, that we might be one temple displaying God's holiness to all.

He is now telling them to remember what Jesus did for them to bring them into this new family, community, nation. That now it is not based on race, class, or culture. The uniting factor is Christ (vs. 13) the cross (vs. 16) the preaching of the gospel. (vs. 17)

Now remember he is not teaching tolerance of sin he is teaching diversity of race, class, and culture. It has to be a gospel centered culture! It is rejecting the sins of our culture, race, class and being built as a structure in Christ centered community, family, structure.

3. Question: What can we do as a group to start including people who are not like us into our community of Grace?
4. Question: What are things we can do to start overcoming self centered groups and become a community of diversity?