

## Alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10)

**Human Condition Without God (Ephesians 2:1-3):** Paul reminds us that, apart from Christ, we were spiritually 'dead in transgressions and sins.' We followed worldly ways, driven by fleshly desires and subject to the influence of Satan. This state left us deserving of God's wrath, helpless to redeem ourselves.

**God's Radical Love and Mercy (Ephesians 2:4-5):** Despite our sinful state, God, 'rich in mercy,' made us alive with Christ. His great love transformed us, even when we were dead in our sins. This salvation is entirely by grace—it is a gift, not something we could ever earn.

**Salvation by Grace Through Faith (Ephesians 2:8-9):** Paul underscores that our salvation is not by works but purely by grace through faith. This means there is no room for boasting; it is entirely God's doing. Just as a VIP invitation is undeserved and extended based on relationship, we are 'seated in heavenly realms' with Christ because of God's grace.

**Our Identity and Purpose in Christ (Ephesians 2:10):** We are 'God's handiwork,' created in Christ Jesus to do good works prepared in advance for us. As uniquely crafted individuals, we each have gifts and talents intended for God's service. This purpose is accessible in everyday contexts—loving God and others in our immediate surroundings is as much a part of His will as more traditional ministry.

This passage serves as a reminder of our transformation through God's mercy, our inability to earn salvation, and the divine purpose God has for each of us. It calls us to live in gratitude, purpose, and grace as a response to God's incredible gift.

## Life Application Questions

How does acknowledging our past state of spiritual death deepen our appreciation for God's grace? \_\_\_\_\_  
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How can the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) shape our understanding of God's love and mercy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What specific 'good works' do you feel God has prepared for you, and how can you pursue them this week? \_\_\_\_\_  
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How does understanding salvation as a gift (not earned) change the way we view ourselves and our relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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