

Stories of Belonging

Life with Christ
Ephesians 2:1-10
Small Group Notes

The direction we go in life is important.

The Need: Consider what direction we are going. Are we being intentional about following Christ and allowing Him to chart the direction of our lives through His word and His Spirit?

Life without Christ

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Ephesians 2:1-3

Questions:

How does Paul describe the popular direction of the world without Christ?

How would you describe your life without Christ?

Life with Christ

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved

through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:4-10

Questions:

God saves us from our sins, making us alive in Christ because of His great love which He loves us. How does this shape and encourage our faith and keep us from a works-based or performance-oriented salvation?

We are God's new creation, His workmanship, created for good works. How can we practice the good works revealed in the Bible out of gratitude and love, and not as a means of salvation or spiritual pride?

Baptism Reflection Questions

This Sunday we celebrated with an individual who shared his profession of faith and was baptized.

What thoughts or reflections about your own salvation and Baptism came to mind as we celebrated the baptism of a new believer?

If you haven't been baptized, what is keeping you from being baptized and sharing what Jesus has done for you?