



Week of January 19, 2020: Ephesians 2

Discussion Questions Set #1

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” (Ephesians 2:1-5)

In sermon, we discussed the idea that prior to an encounter with Jesus, Scripture describes us as spiritually dead. This deadness manifests itself in not only disobedience to the commands of God, but also an ignorance to both His voice and His presence. We also discussed the idea that the Bible does not present the solution for our spiritual deadness in self-help terms but as a “BUT-GOD” endeavour.

1. Above are mentioned a couple of aspects of existence associated with spiritual deadness, but what other realities are joined to spiritual deadness? Describe your understanding or experience of spiritual deadness.
2. In sermon, I suggested that we oftentimes downplay the “dead” aspect of this understanding, exchanging it for the understanding that all we need prior to Christ is a little shaping up, a little resuscitation, a little bit of spiritual sprucing up. Have you found this understanding presented in your experience? Why do you think this idea is prevalent in the church today?
3. In sermon, we discussed the idea that dead things don’t require resuscitation, but resurrection and that a dead thing cannot resurrect itself. How does this understanding affect one’s view of the source and nature of our faith?
4. Discuss the differences between a “self-help” faith and a “but-God” faith in light of our spiritual deadness.
5. Think of the transition from death to life. What kinds of things – either from your knowledge of scripture or from personal experience - does this movement from death to life bring about for us?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”. (Ephesians 2:10)

“In him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives”. (Ephesians 2:22)

In sermon, we discussed the idea that it is for the purpose of living a lifestyle of public good works that we have been given new life. These works do not save us, but our new life is made manifest by our actions and our way of life. Additionally, we learned that we, as followers of Jesus, become a dwelling place in which God lives by His Spirit. God does not live in our buildings; He lives in us as we find our life in Him. Therefore, our communal nature is key; we are transformed in community and into community.

1. Our material from Ezekiel 36-37 helped us to see that we are raised to new life in Christ purposefully; we are raised an army and not a band of wandering nomads. What difference does it make that our new life results in purpose for us?
2. “Just as a person can see the fine handiwork of a master craftsman as he or she looks upon a restored house, the world will recognize God’s craftsmanship in our lives as we are faithful in living a lifestyle of public good works”. What challenge does this quote pose for you? What application does it stir up in you?
3. What do you think it means that we are transformed in community? What do you think it means that we are transformed into community? Where does our community – and unity – come from?

H2H Group Challenge: What is one thing you might do as a H2H group to foster our “being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives”?