

Alive in Christ
Series: Identity (Ephesians)
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Getting Started:

- Last time we met we discussed how we were dead in sin and were made alive in Christ because of His grace and mercy.
- Today we pick up at **Eph. 2:6**. Next week we will dive into **Eph. 4**.
- God allows things to happen within the scope of His plan, including giving us freedom, but what He is going to do, He will finish. God's working of His plan are known as the "decrees of God."

Alive In Christ

**** Galatians 2:19-20 - We are crucified with Christ**

- Our being crucified with Christ is an event that happened one time in our lives, but the results are continuous. We were crucified with our Lord and still are crucified.
- Our old self, what we were outside of Jesus, our attitude, lifestyle, words and actions, have been nailed to the cross.
- This crucified life is a real life reality. We can live victorious over sin's power in our life (**Rom. 6:6-8; Eph. 4; Col. 3**).
- Note that Paul says Christ lives in us. He changes us, takes who we are and makes us into a person who lives out His life. There is an element of faith in this. We must believe and apply it to our lives.
- Our sins were crucified with Christ the moment we accepted Him into our life. **Lk. 9:23** tells us that it is an "every moment" decision to take up our cross (figuratively) and identify with Jesus.
- **Practical:** We are new in Christ. Believe it and live it. Decide to take God at His Word, and through His help live out the crucified life. Allow Jesus to live in us.

God has for us a "marvelous now" as well as a great future - Eph. 2:6-7

- Heaven is our promised destination. We were raised with Christ.
- We have been raised to a new life in Christ (**Col. 2:12; Col. 3:1**).
- We were raised once with Christ and God did it. We experience victory in our lives because of our relationships with God. Christ was victorious over sin and death, and we are also because of Him.
- **Practical:** We can forgive when we did not think we could; we can make it through trials; we can love people who are unlovely. We must submit to God and He can help us live the new life.

We need to be thankful God saved us - Eph. 2:8-9

- We are saved by God's grace. Our part was to believe, to accept what Jesus did for us by dying on a cross and rising from the dead.
- The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. Though we make the choice, God gives us the ability to believe.
- Salvation is God's gift to us (**vs. 8**). There is nothing we can do to earn eternal life (**vs. 9**). God is the one Who does the saving, from start to finish. The Spirit convicts us and brings repentance.
- **Practical:** Spend time thanking God for our salvation.

We are God's greatest design, and we are gifted for service - Eph. 2:10

- One dictionary defines “masterpiece” in the following way: “a work done with extraordinary skill; especially: a supreme artistic or intellectual achievement.”
- We are God’s “masterpiece” as **vs. 10** notes. We are His work of art. God made us (the word “workmanship”), He created us.
- The word “created” in **vs. 10** means “to completely change, to transform.” We are new creations in Christ, and because of that relationship with God we live out what we have in Him.
- The “good works” do not earn us our salvation, they are the result of it. God planned, or “prepared beforehand” (**vs. 10**) that when we came into a relationship with Christ, our lives would show it.
- We all have different gifts, talents and abilities that are to be used for God’s glory.
- **Vs. 10** tells us we “should walk” in these good works. Because of our relationship with Christ, being created new in Him, the result, the blueprint, is that we conduct our life in a God honoring way.
- **Jam. 2:14-26** and **Mt. 5:16** remind us that true Christianity is seen in how we live.
- **Practical:** Are we living the Christian life? The “good works” are not just seen in what we do, but what we say also. What changes has God made in our lives? It may be time to get involved in serving the Lord if we are not doing so. Make that decision today.

Thank the Lord for the salvation we have through
Christ and live out what we believe.