

- 1) Who is this passage primarily directed toward?
- 2) What are its main points?
- 3) What is grace?
- 4) What does God want you to understand about His grace?
- 5) How does the Bible describe you before salvation?

Ephesians 2:1-4 -

Romans 3:10-18 -

Isaiah 64:6 -

- 6) Understanding the pervasive nature of sin, what did you need?
- 7) If you are saved, what is on display in your life (v. 7)?
- 8) Having a right understanding of God's grace should affect your attitude. Answer the following questions:

*What should be your attitude...*

- a) toward God generally?
- b) toward sinners outside (unbelievers)?
- c) toward sinners inside (other believers)?
- d) about your own salvation (v. 9)?
- e) about growth in Christ (v. 10)?
- f) about success in ministry (v. 10)?
- g) What is your attitude like now?
- h) What needs to change this week?
- i) How do you plan to do that?

**Monday (v. 11, 12)** — One of the problems at the church in Ephesus was unbiblical separation, more and more Gentiles were coming to Christ and so the Jewish believers were now in the minority. The Jews were fearful (and prideful) that they might lose influence and the Gentiles were holding onto past prejudices while trampling their Jewish brethren underfoot. Paul reminds the Gentile believers just who they were before Christ; notice how he puts it. Paul wanted them to remember that Jesus Christ was a Jew! The promises of God, the Word of God and the Son of God all came to us through the Jewish people. Sin is so very deceptive. The Gentile believers at Ephesus had erected an unbiblical barrier between themselves and the very Source of their salvation. As we begin our study in Ephesians 2:11-22 today, take some time to examine your life; what kind of “barriers” are evident?

**Tuesday (v. 13)** — “But now in Christ...” Don’t you just love statements like that? Our situation was so hopeless, so futile, absolutely impossible; “but now in Christ!” For His own purpose, since Abraham, God has chosen to work primarily through the Jewish people. Even when God has dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament it has been primarily through the Jewish people. I am thankful for verses like this one; it reminds me of the marvelous grace of God. Even though we (Gentiles) really had nothing to do with God, had turned to our own ways, worshiped idols, lived for ourselves, God still sent Christ to die for us; we once were “far off,” had nothing to do with God, but now in Christ, “by the blood of Christ,” we have been brought near.

**Wednesday (v. 14)** — Verse 14 is the key verse for this section of Ephesians. It is a good summary of the problem and the solution. There was a “middle wall of separation” in the church at Ephesus, the Jewish and Gentile believers had a division amongst themselves. Paul says, “Look! You are both one in Christ, He has broken down your fleshly ‘middle wall’, don’t build it up again!” Americans are particularly good at erecting “middle walls” of separation. What kind of barriers have *you* erected? Are you afraid to let others get close to you? Has someone hurt you in the past so you have separated from them? Are you angry with someone in the Body so you have little or nothing to do with them? Notice the beginning of verse 14: “He Himself [Jesus] is our peace.” Understanding the person and work of Jesus Christ, is it “okay” to have divisions within His Body?

**Thursday (v. 15-17)** — “Peace is rare: Less than 8% of the time since the beginning of recorded time has the world been entirely at peace. In a total of 3,530 years, 286 have been warless [and] 8,000 treaties have been broken...” I wonder how many “skirmishes” or small “conflicts” they had to leave out to arrive at 286 years of “peace.” Humans seem to be bent toward conflict. As James said (Jas. 4:1), “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?” Paul calls our relationship before Christ “enmity” or hatred. D.L. Moody said, “It has been said that peace has five enemies: Envy, avarice, ambition, anger and pride. But all sin disturbs our peace. If I turn from sin, however, and try to please God, He promises that he will make even my enemies to be at peace with me.” Paul tells us that Christ has come and *He* is our peace! If that is true—and it is!—then what does it mean when there is conflict in your life?

**Friday (v. 18)** — “In Christ” we share the same Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Paul brings to light more details about what this should mean in your life when he talks about the Church being a temple. In Christ we all have access to the same Father God by the same Spirit, because of the same Savior. We have so much in common in Christ. We use the same Bible, we should have the same goals, drive and purpose in life. How is it possible for churches to have factions? How is it possible for churches to be filled with different agendas? If a church is not experiencing perfect unity, what does it indicate, what is at work in that body?

**Saturday (v. 19-22)** — This passage should help all Christians to no longer think of themselves as simply individuals but as one in Christ. Paul is telling us what the Church should be and he describes it in a series of images. The first image is that of a body (1:22, 23; 2:15, 16). The second is a household or nation (country; v. 19), and the third image is that of a building or specifically a temple (v. 20-22). Why do you think Paul used these images (word pictures) to describe life in Christ? What should we learn from this illustration?