

# Unity and New Life in Christ

## Ephesians 2

Week of September 15-21

Last week we looked at some of the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus. In this section Paul continues to talk about those blessings – how God has rescued us from our previous way of life and united us together in the family of God. In this section we are also bluntly reminded that we are totally incapable of doing anything toward our salvation. Salvation is a gift from God - an act of sheer grace - through his son Jesus Christ.

**Objective:** Look at who we all are “before” and “after” God’s intervention. Understand why Paul can proclaim that we are all one in Christ.

1. **Opening Discussion: What did you learn about God and yourself through your experience this week?** (The commitment you made last week in question #13.)

**Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

2. **What are the characteristics of the way all of us used to live? (vs. 1-3)**
3. **For each item in your list above (#2) ask: What does this mean? What are the consequences?**
4. **Given our sorry state... What did God do for us? What does this tell us about God and how God feels about us? (vs. 4-7)**
5. **What was God’s purpose in doing this?** (These verses give at least two reasons).



**11. It is not uncommon to hear the phrase, “All things come together in Christ” (or something similar). How would you explain to a brand new Christian why this is true? Can you think of other scripture verses that support this idea?**

**12. Decide on ONE thing you would like to do based on what you have studied here. Share it with your group and commit to doing it for the upcoming week. Be prepared to share your experience with the group.**

**This week I commit to:**

**\*\*See notes on question #13 in week one for tips on this exercise.\*\***

Ideas for this week include:

- Identify one group that might be considered “outsiders”. (e.g. - prisoners, the elderly, homeless, illegal aliens) Visit, write a letter or otherwise act to make a tangible expression of the truth that in Christ we are now all equals and all “insiders”.
- Paul makes some radical statements about the unity and oneness of the church. Identify one person with whom you have “a dividing wall of hostility” and take one step toward reconciliation.
- Journal about the way you “used to live” (vs. 1-3) as compared to the way you can live now in Christ (vs. 4-10). Make these observations personal to your life. Offer prayers of thanksgiving to God for making such a radical difference.
- **\*\*Remember these are only suggestions!\*\*** Create your own commitment, or adapt the ideas here as needed. This exercise is for YOU to grow as a disciple.