

# Ephesians 2

## Intro

- Share your summary of Ephesians 2.
- What is Paul's revelation? (*Look at 1 on 1 #1 for the answer*)

## Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- Who is the "you" and "us" in this chapter?
  - *Like Ephesians 1, Paul is referring to the Gentiles as "you" and is referring to the Jews as "us," since he himself is Jewish.*
- What is the "kingdom of the air?" What makes someone a citizen of that kingdom? (Verses 1-3)
  - *The kingdom of the air is another term for the kingdom of this world. When you belong to a kingdom, you accept the reign and authority of the ruler of the kingdom, and we are all either a citizen of God's Kingdom or the kingdom of this world. When we choose to follow our sinful desires, we accept the reign and authority of our sin.*
- Why does belonging to the kingdom of the world mean that you are "dead" in your sins? (Verse 1)
  - *Romans 6:23 says that the wages of sin is death. Therefore, when you choose to follow your sinful desires, living under the reign of sin, you are held captive by eternal death, eternal separation from God.*
- In verses 4-6, how did Jesus partner with us to bring us from the kingdom of death to His Kingdom?
  - *We are made alive WITH Christ, raised up WITH Christ, and seated WITH Christ in the heavenly realms. Our God is a God who partners with us. He partners with us in ministry AND in salvation. He chose to limit his divinity by becoming man so that we could be partnered with Him in His resurrection and exaltation.*
- How does the kingdom of the world work against Paul's revelation of unity?

## Read Ephesians 2:11-22

- How does Paul define the identity of the Gentiles compared to that of Israel in verses 11-12?
  - *The "uncircumcised," separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel, foreigners to God's covenant, without hope, and without God.*
- Based on verses 11-18, how do you think the relationship was between Gentiles and Jews? (*Answer: hostile and exclusive*)
- How is Jesus the solution to Paul's revelation?
- What does it mean that both the Jews and the Gentiles are a "new humanity?" (Verse 15)
- What does it practically look like to live as a "new humanity?"

**Concluding Questions:**

- In what ways do you contribute to bringing disunity to the Kingdom?
- In what ways are you still living in the “kingdom of the air,” rather than living as a “new humanity?”
- In what ways do you see the world creating division, rather than living as one humanity?
- Do you walk in confidence of your identity as a new humanity, a citizen of God’s Kingdom? What does it look like to live a life walking in confidence of your identity in Christ?

**Further Study Opportunities (Optional)**

- Where do you see the concept of God’s “chosen” people?
- Where do you see the concept of “inheritance?”
- Paul’s “temple” language - Paul sees everything through the lens of his faith, which is based on the Old Testament. In the Garden of Eden, mankind was able to be in God’s presence until we were exiled from the Garden because of our sin. God’s presence then was confined to only the temple, where only the high priest could enter God’s presence. Now, when we make God the authority of our lives, His presence reigns within us, and our bodies become the temple, or the housing, of the Holy Spirit. The temple was “filled” with the glory of God (Ezekiel 10:4, Ezekiel 44:4, 1 Kings 8:10-13, Isaiah 6:1). Paul uses this temple language in Ephesians as well (Ephesians 1:23, 2:21-22, 3:19, 4:10, 5:18)
- What does it mean that Jesus set aside the law with its commands and regulations? (Verse 15) - The law was supposed to guide people to living God’s way. It was meant to give life! However, humans are often tempted by the “forbidden fruit,” not because of the fruit itself but simply because it’s forbidden. Therefore, as Romans 7 says, the law aroused peoples’ sinful desires. The law helps identify sin, so the very thing that was supposed to give life became the reason that people lost life. The word “set aside” means to “release from power.” Paul is saying that the law no longer has the power to define who is in the covenant family of God. Jesus has released that power, declaring that all are welcome to be part of the covenant family of God by making Christ Lord.

**Do For Next Week:**

- Read Ephesians 1-3 in one sitting.
- Give a 1-2 sentence summary of Ephesians 3.