



REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)

11. Paul repeatedly speaks of our salvation as something that has happened—past tense. Paul seems more certain of that than many Christians do. What would you say to a Christian who still worries he or she isn't "good enough" to please God?

12. In my spiritual life, I've tended to boast most about:
- My spiritual heritage (what my family was religiously)
 - Being in the right church
 - Knowing all the right doctrines
 - Being able to persuade others they were wrong
 - In the absence of bad habits
 - In the good deeds I've done
 - In the cross of Christ
 - In the grace of God

13. How does the fact that God views us with grace, mercy, love and kindness affect your desire to respond to him? Your self-image? Your ability to cope with hard times? Or do you feel more like you must be an "object of wrath"? (v.3) Why?

14. **CASE STUDY:** Your friend, Joe, has it all: money, a great job and good looks. One day he says to you, "It's all meaningless. I don't know what life's all about." What's the message here for him?



October 11, 2009

Ephesians # 4

GRACE ANATOMY

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

These guides usually have more material than a Life Group will be able to address in the allotted time. Any questions you don't have time to cover in your group can be used in your personal study this week.



OPEN:
(2 minutes)

1. When have you shown mercy to a person who deserved to be punished?

2. What is the best gift you've ever received?

3. When you were a kid, did you ever get in hot water at school? What did your parents say?





Read Ephesians 2:1-10

4. How does grace's assessment of us ("dead in sin") compare to what most people think of themselves spiritually?
5. Why do you think Paul emphasizes that we are "dead in your transgressions and sins"? What are the implications of us being in a "position of deadness"?
6. Contrast "you were dead" (v. 1-3) to our position now in Christ in verses 4-7.
7. Pagans in Ephesus tried to remove guilt by maiming themselves, abstaining from food or sex, giving money or sacrificing an animal. How do people in our day try to remove guilt, other than by accepting God's offer of grace?
8. Paul says we are "saved by grace *through* faith." How would it change things if we were saved "*by* our faith"?
9. How should it make you feel to know that you are God's "poetry" ("workmanship" is the word from which we get "poetry" in English)? How does that concept affect how we view the connection between works and salvation?
10. **We often want to explain salvation in terms of "God's part" and "man's part" as though "our part" contributed something of value to the salvation process. How would you explain man's role in salvation without it sounding like we've brought something of merit to the table?**



Quote:

"The main problem in appropriating this passage is for us to take it seriously. For the most part, we do not believe the picture of ourselves is as bad as Paul says."

– *The NIV Application Commentary on Ephesians* by
Kyle Snodgrass