

# Ephesians 2:1-10



## The text – Ephesians 2: 1-10

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. In the NIV the passage commences with the words, “as for you”, which is, in the original text, “and you ...” How do these words flow on from Ephesians 1:22-23? How do they further develop the assertion that the church is the body of Christ, “the fullness of him who fills everything in every way”?
2. In Ephesians 2:1-3 we are confronted by the human condition apart from Christ and God’s mercy. We read about the “world” (2:2), the “flesh” (2:3), and the “devil” (2:2) in this passage. Discuss each of these terms. What do we learn about them from this passage?
3. Notice the distinction in this passage between “you” (2:1) and “all of us” (2:3). Paul is writing as a Jewish believer in Christ, to churches made up of both Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ. At times, this is signified by the language of “you” (Gentiles) and “us” (Jews). Why is this important? What is one of Paul’s main concerns in this passage and throughout the letter? (Note, for example, Ephesians 2:14)
4. In Ephesians 2:4-7 there are a number of statements which use the phrase “with Christ”. Discuss them. What do disciples of Christ share in common with Christ?
5. What is grace? Discuss and describe grace as fully as you can.
6. In Ephesians 2:8-10, we find the language of “creation” in words such as “handiwork”, “created”, and “good works”. Discuss this language. What is the main point being made?

## The Scriptures – Ephesians 2: 1-10 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. Initially God created humanity and placed the man and woman in the garden. He commanded them to work and take care of the garden. Now we have the language of new creation in Christ. The church is the community of new creation. What should the church do? Think about this in relation to the initial creation and the task of Adam and Eve prior to the fall in Genesis 3. As humans in Christ, what should we do in God’s world?
8. Paul uses the metaphor of “walking” in Ephesians 2:1 (translated “live” in the NIV) and again in Ephesians 2:10 (translated “to do” in the NIV). To live is to walk. Our way of life is the way we walk. This metaphor comes from OT Scriptures such as Genesis 17:1-2, Deuteronomy 10:12-13, and Psalm 1:1-3. Do you find this metaphor helpful? Why?
9. God’s people are unworthy! We are rescued by God in spite of ourselves. This is not a new teaching in the NT. Read and discuss, for example, God’s word to Israel in Deuteronomy 7:6-9.
10. “No one can boast” (Ephesians 2:9) – this is a really important affirmation throughout the letters of the NT. Read and discuss what Paul says about this in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

## Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Ephesians 2: 1-10 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. God’s grace is abundant and lavish throughout the letter we know as Ephesians. Reflect on God’s grace to you. Tell some stories about times in your life when God has been gracious.
12. What did you learn about God from this passage of Scripture? Share fresh insights with the others in your group.
13. How can we pray for you as you continue in your walk with God?