



Created for Community Part 2

Ephesians 2:8-18

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Key points

1. We have been saved by grace through faith in Christ
2. We are God's handiwork; He is fashioning us into masterpieces
3. We have been created in Christ to do good works
4. Our good works as new creations in Christ are expressed within the new community of the church
5. We were separate, excluded foreigners, without hope and without God; But in Christ we have been brought near
6. Christ is our peace and He has made us all One
7. Christ destroyed the barriers that divided us (show Haiti video)
8. Christ's purpose was to make us one new humanity; we are a new community in Christ
9. We have been reconciled in one Body; He saved us as a Body to be a Body of believers
10. Through Christ we have peace, we've been brought near and we have access by one Spirit to God

Biblical Principles

- I. We need to see our salvation, our spiritual position and our calling to do good works all in the context of being a part of a new community in Christ
- II. Christ's work on the cross was not limited to our individual salvation but was for a larger purpose of reconciling all believers into one Body
- III. Christ has destroyed the barriers that divide us from Him and from one another
- IV. Every believer, as part of a new community in Christ, shares in equal access by the Spirit to God

Personal Application

- 1) These truths are meaningless if we are not connected in fellowship and in regular relational contact with one another
- 2) We fulfill God's purpose for us to do good works when we are connected to a Body and to people we can serve
- 3) Unity in community is activated when we pursue the Body and pursue relationship with others in the Body
- 4) We need to gathering together weekly for worship not because the preaching and worship are good but because it is a vital necessity to experience the purpose for why Christ died on the cross
- 5) We need to move from being spectators to taking Belong, joining the Church and being a part of small group because it is how we live out our new identity in Christ as part of One Body