

## Who am I in Christ #11: God's Masterpiece Ephesians 2:1-10

**Objectives:** We want to understand how the Bible describes those who are Christ followers and those who are not. We want to see the incredible mercy and grace of God towards his children. We want to see ourselves as his masterpiece and begin to live in that reality.

### Materials needed:

- Printed lists of negative identities
- White board and markers

### Launch

Give everyone a sheet with a list of negative identities on it. Have them check off each one they feel about themselves. Collect the lists, shuffle then hand out randomly. Read the list and have people raise their hand if they have the identity checked.

**Do you think that this is how Jesus views you? Why or why not?**

Tonight we are going to look at a passage found in the book of Ephesians. The first 3 chapters of this book are filled with statements about who we are in Christ. Before the author gives **even** one command about what his readers are to do, he lists multiple statements that are **already** true about them. **Why do you think it is important to understand who we are in Christ?**

### Explore

#### Read Ephesians 2:1-10

This passage can be broken down into 2 parts. Part 1 describes what is true of people before they are Christians (v. 1-3). Part 2 describes what is true of a person who is a Christian (4-10).

#### 2:1-3

- **How does Paul describe a person before he/she is a follower of Christ? List on a white board.** (dead in your sins, following the world, following the devil, gratifying the desires of our flesh, by nature objects of wrath)
- **What stands out to you about these descriptions?** You might want to define terms.
- **There are several descriptions that are uncomfortable to hear, why do you think Paul (the author) includes them?**

- **How would you summarize the main point of this passage?**

#### 2:4-10

- **How does Paul describe a follower of Christ? List on the white board.** (loved, alive with Christ, raised with Christ, seated with Christ, object of grace, God's workmanship, created for good works).
- **What stands out to you about these descriptions?**
- **How would you to summarize the main point of this passage?**
- **How is a person changed from the descriptions in verses 1-3 to the descriptions in verses 4-10?** ("But God..." God acted. He showed mercy, He loved, He made us alive, He raised us up, He saved us by grace, etc...)
- **If God did all of this, what do we need to do?** (receive his gift (verse 8), walk into the good works he prepared for us)
- **What are ways you might try to "work" for this blessing from God (verse 9)?**
- **What do you think Paul means: "so that no one may boast?"**
- **What are ways you "boast" inwardly or outwardly?**
- **In verse 10 those who belong to Christ are described as "his workmanship." Other versions use "handiwork" or "masterpiece." What does God want us to understand by using these words?**
- **What are the implications for us if we are God's masterpiece? In other words, how should this impact how we view ourselves and live our lives?**

- **How is this description of you different than what the world or the flesh tells you about yourself?**

### **Apply (in small groups)**

- There are at least 3 applications we can see in this passage.
  - Some need to receive the gift of salvation that God offers (vs 8);
  - Some need to identify and correct the low view of yourself;
  - Some need to intentionally walk by faith into the good works God has for you. **Which application do you need most right now? Why?**
- **What practical next step can you take to live in light of your application?**

### **Prayer**

- Take your sheet with the negative identities. Write “God’s Masterpiece” over the whole sheet.
  - **Pray that we would believe that we are God’s Masterpiece.**
  - **Pray that we would have the strength to live out our application.**
  - **Pray for those who have not received the gift to receive it.**
- To help us believe what is true of us in Christ, we have a Bible study from Ephesians 1:3-14 for all of us to do over the break...