

Ephesians 2: 1–22

Living According to God's Identity

Have you ever been asked the question, “How are you related to so-and-so?” Have you ever asked someone else a question like that?

Why is it important as humans for us to form these relational connections? In what way does the community where we find ourselves most deeply connected shape and form our identity?

The ancient world also concerned itself with human connections. What craftsmanship does your family engage in? What city, town, village, or hamlet does your family hail from? Questions like these helped people in the ancient world interact with any new folk they encountered.

Read Passage in NIV2011

A. We all have a COMMON PAST apart from God 2:1–3

- 1. Regardless of how our parents and grandparents raised us, we existed separated from the kind of Life God desires humans to possess.**

A. Paul describes our original orientation to death in various ways

1. We followed the patterns and values of our culture v.2a
2. We were disobedient toward the values of God v.2b
3. Our finite existence dominated our desires and our thinking v. 3
 1. “What Can I Get Now to Feel Good?”

B. We all have a COMMON PATH in God 2:4–7

- 1. Regardless of our past God acted on our behalf**

- A. God acted out of his **abundant** mercy v. 4a
- B. God acted out of his **tremendous** love v.4b

C. God acted **amazingly**

1. God brought life to us together with Christ v. 5
2. God raised us up and seated us together with Christ v. 6

D. God acted **intentionally**

1. God acted in this way to reveal himself v. 7a
2. God acted for those yet to come v. 7a
3. God acted to indicate the **wealth** of his grace v. 7b

C. *We all have a COMMON PURPOSE from God 2:8–10*

1. *Regardless of our past, God enlivens us for his activities*

A. Our deliverance is a gift from God v. 8

1. We did nothing to earn this life and new identity from God
2. We have nothing we can claim we have done

B. Our new identity is fully shaped by God v. 10a

1. God is crafting and shaping us
2. God wants us engaged in activities according to his will

2. *We are no longer enslaved to the activities of 2:1–3*

A. We can now follow the patterns and values of God

B. We can now be obedient to the things of God

C. God's Spirit can dominate our desires and thinking

D. *THEREFORE, We ALL have a COMMON IDENTITY in Christ 2:11–22*

1. *Regardless of how our past identities divided us from others, in Christ we are no longer divided 2:19–22*

- A. We have a common identity with all those whom God has made alive through his Spirit v. 19a-b
- B. We belong to God v. 19c
- C. God is crafting a Holy Temple for his dwelling place – The People of God v. 21-22

Your New Identity, My New Identity, indeed Our New Identity as one alive in Jesus the Messiah MUST override Our Old Identity as one dead to Jesus the Messiah.

Concluding Thoughts

We must stop trying to relive our past by holding on to our past

We must cease walking on our own path, we must begin to follow the path of Jesus

We must remind one another that we thrive when our life is plumb to God's purpose

We must not judge new members of God's family whom God is also crafting to fit into the People of God.