

**Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture****SERMON TEXT:** Ephesians 2:1-10**KEY POINT:** God is the only one who can save us by his grace from being dead in our sin.**FOR LEADERS**

- **Final Week!** *This is our final week of Communities for the 2020-2021 Season! Thank you so much for leading a Community this year, and we sincerely hope to see you again for our 2021-2022 season beginning this Fall! Definitely take some time to rest this Summer, perhaps even get a date or two on the calendar with your group for a BBQ or a party. We're so grateful for you! As always, if there's any way we can better support you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!*
- **Feedback:** *When you have a moment, please head to www.emergencenj.org/feedback to let us know what your experience has been and to help provide insight as we plan for what's to come!*

GETTING STARTED

- [1] Communities Video:** Watch this week's community extras video!
- [2] Icebreaker:** What's one thing you'd really love to do this Summer?
- [3] Opener:** What were your biggest takeaways from the sermon this week?

A PAST**Ask for someone to read Ephesians 2:1-3**

In the sermon, Ryan identified four ways of being "dead in sin": **1.)** Being disinterested because our lives are "fine" **2.)** Blame shifting for the mess(es) in our lives, **3.)** Knowingly refusing to submit to how God has designed us **4.)** Thinking that the things of God are silly, ridiculous, or foolish.

- [1]** Which of these did you / do you find most relatable and why?
- [2]** How does the Gospel specifically speak to each one of these?
- [3]** According to these three verses, what type of attitude should we have toward unbelievers?

Along with the very "this-worldly" symptoms of being dead in sin, Paul also characterizes spiritual death as "following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience." Of course, Paul is referring to the battle going on in the spiritual realm (see also Eph. 1:21, 6:10-20).

- [4]** Why is it important for us to be aware of this reality that Paul is describing?

A MOMENT**Ask for someone to read Ephesians 2:4-9.**

- [5]** Can you recall the moment in your life where God made you alive in Christ? What was that moment like, and how is your life different because of it?
- [6]** Given what Paul says in these verses, how much of a role would you say an individual has in his or her own salvation? Explain.



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[7] In your experience, what part(s) of our passage this week do you find people have the hardest time accepting? How would you engage with someone struggling to accept these things as truth?

A PRESENT

Ask for someone to read Ephesians 2:10.

[8] How would you explain the proper relationship between faith and works based upon what we read here?

[9] What are the “good works which God has prepared beforehand” for you to walk in?

[10] If people are saved by grace through faith, apart from works, why should anyone care about doing good works?

INCLOSING

[1] Take some time to think back on the year it's been throughout this pandemic, and how God's worked throughout! What has your experience been, and what have you learned?

[2] What will this Summer look like for your group? Any events on the calendar?

[3] Share any expectations for next year – Will the group be continuing? Any changes in location, time, leadership? If you have someone in your group who will be stepping forward to lead a new group next year, take a moment to pray for them!

[4] Take some time to thank the Lord for the amazing gift of salvation, that even though we were dead in sin, God has made us alive together in Christ. Pray also that this gift would not fall on us in vain, but rather fuel us forward to walk in good works God's prepared for us!