



Liberty LifeGroups Discussion

BACK TOGETHER (PART 1)

September 19, 2021

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experienceliberty.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

FROM EPHESIANS 2:19-22

Consider how much you can do as an individual in comparison to how much can be done with other individuals involved. Jesus stated in John 14:12 *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”*

- How is it possible to do greater works than Jesus did?
- Pastor Matt stated the church is made to work together. Is that something we as a church does well? Is there an overabundance of volunteers? Do you serve in any ministries in church? What are common excuses given for not serving?

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

Paul says that at one time we were strangers and foreigners. Being a stranger/foreigner implies you are just an unknown guest wherever you are. People treat you like a guest. If you have ever traveled to another city alone, it can be uncomfortable not knowing where you are going. Traveling with a friend, someone who really cares about you, who knows the way around the city, is much more enjoyable.

- When a stranger comes into the church how often do you greet them with a warm handshake or hello? What can you do to make a first-time guest comfortable at church?
- It's easy to forget that at one time we were strangers to our church because we have become comfortable. We are comfortable because we became fellow citizens. That's what it means to be in the household of God. Tell about your previous visitations of other churches and how you were received. How was that different than you were received at Liberty on your first visit? What more could we do as a church family to welcome others?
- How do we become a fellow citizen, and do we deserve to be?

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

- Just reading this verse tells us a lot about ourselves. What does it mean to be dead (*nekros*) in trespasses (*paraptōma*) and sin (*hamartia*)? Is that speaking of physical or spiritual death? **Nekros implies a lack of devotion to God, Paraptoma implies having fallen off the right path and hamartia implies you have missed the mark by violating God's law.**
- Is it obvious from this passage, that we have no right to condemn another? Why do people say the church is the most judgmental place to be?

- Every one of us were found to be dead in our trespasses and sin. Verse 2 should be interpreted as “IN WHICH _____ (insert your name) ONCE WALKED. How did we walk? Look back and think about your life before you became a member of the household of God. Does this verse paint a picture of YOU?

4 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

- One of the attributes of God that without a doubt makes Him God, is Love. God loves us enough to forgive us, to send his son to die for us and to offer us salvation even when we were at one time his enemy. Why do we have such a hard time emulating that kind of love towards others?

5 *even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

- Verse 5 -6 says that God made us alive together, raised us up together and made us sit together because he extended grace and mercy to us. Grace means that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness... have you extended those attributes to others as a Christian? Tell of a time you have offered a Christ-like act towards someone undeserving of it.
- Verse 7: Try to put in perspective the *riches of His grace* and how would you describe that to unbelievers.

In John Chapter 3 we meet a man named Nicodemus who questioned how to get to heaven. Jesus's response about the state of man was this: *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

- In other words if you stay in the spiritual state, you condemn yourself. Jesus stated you must be born again. Share your story of salvation with someone this week.