

EPHESIANS

WHO I AM AND WHY IT MATTERS

All of us walk through seasons of change in our lives. We mature from child to teenager and ultimately to adult. Then there are the more immediate changes like leaving for college. Overnight, everything is different. Perhaps, like many folks, you moved to NWA from another part of the country or world because of a job that led to significant changes for you and your family. Life comes at you fast – it's constantly changing. Today, our passage is all about the change that Jesus brings to your life at salvation and the ongoing changes that occur as you mature in your walk with God.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?
2. What do the following phrases mean when describing the Gentiles: Separated from Christ? Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel? Strangers to the covenant promises? Without God in the world?
3. Why do you think Paul calls the Christian Gentiles in Ephesus to remember their condition before salvation in Christ? What good does it do for us to remember our lives before Christ?
4. What was the original purpose for circumcision among the Jews? What does it mean that the Jews were proud of their circumcision and looked down on the Gentiles? In what ways are you most tempted to look down on others, like how the Jews looked down on the Gentiles?
5. What does Paul mean when he says Christ "broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility" so "that he might create in himself one new man"? How can we follow Christ and model reconciliation in our lives?
6. What do verses 19-22 teach us about the nature of the church? How should today's passage influence how we think about the church, locally and globally? See Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11.
7. How essential is unity in the church? What does it look like for a church to be unified? What impact can a unified church have in the world? What role do you play when it comes to unity in the church?
8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on applying in your life this week?