



Knowing Your Identity Ephesians 2v1-10

Freedom is the freedom to be the good thing you were created to be (recall the Dolphin on the sand illustration). Paul is writing this letter in lockdown, “in chains” (6v20), most likely under house arrest, but the letter nevertheless pulsates with life and with hope and with purpose. Paul knows his identity and the freedom that brings.

1) Remember where and who you were (2v1-3)

How would you describe the change God brought about when you came to trust in Jesus Christ for yourself? Paul says (v1) that, beforehand, we were dead in sin. Far from free, we were following the ways of a world which hates God and under the influence of the spiritual power of darkness (v2), and driven by the desires and cravings of the whole system of human existence separated from God (v3). We were neither alive nor free! In fact, we were all, by nature, “children of wrath”—the way we were living, and who we were, should have attracted God’s wrath (v3).

2) Remember where and who you are now (2v4-7)

But God saw the state you were in, with no spiritual life in you, and was full of concern and pity and mercy towards you (v4). Because of his deep love for you (v4), he made you alive when you were dead in sin—that same resurrection power that made Christ alive and raised him and seated him in heaven ALSO made you alive and raised you and seated you in the heavenly realms in Christ (v5&6). You are now where he is. You’re already a son or daughter in the heavenly family.

This was God’s gargantuan gift to you! You have been saved by grace (v5), by the sheer kindness and love of God (v7). You are already safe and saved (v5), you can’t lose this. It’s already done and we didn’t add anything. (Think of a paramedic resuscitating somebody who is unconscious—they don’t and can’t contribute anything to that process.)

Let’s be encouraged to live out of this new and true identity every day. To be kind and tender-hearted and forgiving to one another, just as God’s heart is towards us (4v32, 5v1-2). *How could each one of us grow in showing this radical kindness of Christ to one another, not just practically, but emotionally and relationally?*

3) Remember it’s not from you! (2v8-10)

Grace is the sort of kindness that is kind to the unlovely. This is what God’s kindness to us is like. Read verse 8 really slowly. Our entire salvation (including the faith and trust we’ve been enabled to put in Jesus) is a huge gift of life and love from God (v8). And it wasn’t given because of anything we did (v9), but rather in spite of our deeds (v1-3). It’s all from God, not from us (v8)!

This salvation is already ours (v5&8). And it’s already done. God isn’t asking us to contribute to our salvation—how can we since we are already seated with Christ in the heavenly places and already alive with everlasting life (v5-6)? No, God is urging us, today, to know our identity in Christ and to live out of it—to love from the heart and walk like his Son, because we too are already with him in his heavenly family.

