

# *Alive in Christ*

*Icebreaker: If you were an alien from outer space and came to earth to explore its people and cultures, where would you start?*

*From where did your ancestors emigrate? What did their new citizenship mean to them?*

## **Ephesians 2:1-10**

Paul divides your life into two periods, what are they?



Who owned you during the first period? What does it mean by ‘Owned’?

Why did God take over your life?

What is the different between cosmetic surgery, to remove wrinkles or a nose job, and the surgery that God performs?

Is a Christian ever completely rid of the cravings of the past?

What in your life is due to God’s presence and goodness?

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## **Ephesians 2:11-22**



This letter from Paul is addressed to a church, what is the problem with the church?

How did God resolve this problem?

What is the difference between Hitler's "Superior Race" and the idea "One Body" that Paul is speaking of?

How do you think the practicing Jews felt when these Gentiles started coming to their church but didn't want to adopt the Jewish custom of circumcision?

If Paul wrote a letter to you, what would it say? Are there walls that you still need to tear down?



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## *Ephesians 2*

### **Made Alive in Christ**

1As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast. 10For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### **One in Christ**

11Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)— 12remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

14For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.