

Ephesians 2

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.” (Eph. 2:1-2)

“Dead”--Strong's 3498 “...lifeless”

“Trespass”--Strong's 3900 “...deviate from the truth...misdeed”

“Sin”--Strong's 266 “miss the mark”

ACTIVITY: SINFUL WALKING PATH

Create a circular path using furniture or anything that limits movement outside of the parameters of the pathway. Show a close, but unreachable goal (perhaps through a window or on a higher portion of some playground equipment). Use the path as a type of game board (like candy land) but the winning place is beyond their reach, so as they choose cards to progress through the path, they might be directed to do something “mean” or something “nice” but they never progress any closer to the goal...they continue in a circle. It might appear that they are “improving” or “making progress”, but they are simply repeating the circle. Beyond their reach should a visible table or place with wrapped gifts waiting...(they will get to those later in the lesson.)

“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

“lived”--Strong's 390 “...busy oneself...”

“wrath”--Strong's 3709 “...violent... temper...”

It's our nature, apart from the life of Christ, to live in the chaotic busy-ness of catering to whatever we want carnally or mentally and showing a violent temper toward each other.

Discussion: How does your room look after you've been playing? Do you pick up your stuff and put it away? Do you leave it all over? Do your parents talk to you about doing your homework, doing chores? What else do they have to encourage you to do? Do they have to force you to play? Do they require that you watch a certain amount of TV? Do they teach you to argue with your sisters, brothers, friends, and others? Why is it so easy to get upset with someone else?

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of

His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

In our last class, we talked about what “grace” is...the merciful kindness by which God exerts His power to turn a soul to Christ. So, go back to the “sinful walking path” activity, but this time open the door (or create an exit) and escort each one out to the goal outside of the path. Let them choose a wrapped gift which could include a snack, drink, and/or a toy.

Discussion: Did you have to pay for these gifts? How did you get them? We were stuck/dead in our sins and transgressions. How did He free us? (“...Made us alive together with Christ, raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly in Christ...”)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

He created us and transformed us in Christ to a new nature that is busy in that which God prepared for us to walk in.

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands—*remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

ACTIVITY: Exclusive club

Randomly create two teams--girls/boys; tall/short; fast/slow; hair color; eye color...have one team be the “in” group and the other be the “out” group that’s not included. Set up an area for only the “in” group. (Maybe a beanbag area or swings--any attractive place.)

Discussion: How did you feel when you were in the “out” group? How did you feel when you were in the “in” group? It could also be tempting to ridicule one or the other groups and further divide yourselves.

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one* and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. AND HE CAME

AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;”

Remove the division between the groups by adding bean bag chairs or allowing all to play on the swings and playground equipment.

PRAY: “Jesus, You are our peace. You have reconciled us to God. You have put to death the hatred.”

“...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’ household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” (Eph 2:1-22 NAS95)

ACTIVITY--Build with blocks or other construction items