

## Read Ephesians 2:4-22

*<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. <sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup>And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

## Background

Over the last two weeks in our *What's So Amazing About Grace* series, we have marveled at the way in which God's grace saves us (Romans 3) and frees us (Romans 6) to live a life that honors Him. But how does God's grace continue to work in our lives? What are the effects of God's grace *in* my life and *through* my life? Today, Pastor David will help us see that God's grace rooted in his love and mercy not only unites followers of Jesus but produces good works from His followers to draw an unbelieving world to Him.

## Service Notes

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***What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?***

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The "Getting Started" section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the "Talk it Over" section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the "Live it Out" section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

### Getting Started

- ▼ What is one thing that stood out the most to you in this week's message? What has God been teaching you lately? How can we pray for you this week?

### Talk it Over

- ▼ In Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul uses the phrase "but God" to show the dramatic shift from our desperate condition before Jesus and God's mercy and love in action through His grace. Can you describe a time when you have experienced a clear "but God" moment in your own life? What did you learn yourself? What did you learn about who God is?
- ▼ **Read Ephesians 2:11-19.** How does Paul describe our lives before we trusted in Jesus? What are all the different effects of God's grace on those who follow Jesus? What does God's grace do *between* us as followers of Jesus?
- ▼ **Read Ephesians 2:20-22.** God's grace works *through* His people. How does Paul describe this "work" in this passage? What do you think it means to be a "dwelling place for God?" How should this change the way we relate to one another as the Church? How does this understanding help unite us as a local congregation? How should God's grace we have received shape the way we treat others? Why is 'grace' often absent among believers online, in the work place, and in the local church?
- ▼ In Ephesians 2:10, Paul says we are created for "good works" that we should "walk in them." In your own life, what do you think these "good works" look like? How do our "good works" reflect God's grace to the world around us? How does God use our spiritual gifts, abilities, and resources to carry out these "good works?"

### Live it Out

- ▼ What is one specific way you can demonstrate God's grace to someone in your life this week who is far from Jesus?