

# **Ephesians Series – Autumn 2020 Including Life** **Group Leaders Brief**

Taken from the book **Ephesians: How Jesus creates a New People in a New World** by Brad Wilson

## **‘How Jesus creates a new people in a new world’**

A major series preaching through this book, with each message formed of three parts:

- Head – Renewal of our minds by the knowledge of God
- Heart – Restoration of our souls by the application of this truth
- Hands – Transformation of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit

There are eight parts (weeks) each has a reading(s) a brief synopsis and some suggested questions.

Please note that the first three parts all have two sections, the remaining parts one section each.

Suggested questions for life groups have been **highlighted**.

## **Part 2 – A church raised by grace (2:1-10)**

### ***Head***

Jesus came for the broken/sinners. Dead in our sin and therefore incapable of releasing ourselves. We fitted in with the ways of the world, we wanted to be the same. Satan ruled us. All we wanted to do was gratify the cravings of our sinful nature.

Love for us, even in our sinful state motivated God.

Grace is what God shows us when he accepts us as cleansed from sin into His family. He cleansed us of our sin and adopted us into his family.

We need to grasp hold of what grace is, to appreciate it, value it and rejoice in it.

We are given a gift of new life, without Jesus we are nothing, with him we have everything.

Vs 6: we are seated with Christ. That is our position!

### **Who are we apart from Christ, and who are we in Christ?**

### ***Heart***

We were dead in trespasses and sins. (v1) but made alive God’s mercy and love.

Do we realise how sinful we are without Christ and how with Him we are a new creation.

**Do we sometimes try to earn that grace/mercy/affection in how we interact with God and others?**

**How does knowing God loves us, shows us grace and mercy affect our attitude towards Him?**

**Do I love God?**

### ***Hands***

We are God’s masterpiece created for good works that God prepared for us to do(v10).

God made us for a purpose and He is love! He made us the way we are to do the good works He has prepared for us.

**What would your life look like if you walked constantly in what Jesus is calling you to do?**

**Part 2 continued and united without borders (2:11-22)**

***Head***

We are united together on the same basis into one body: the church.

Christ's purpose was to make the two one. To get rid of the hostility between Jews and Gentiles. Same foundation, same building.

We were once outside of this covenant.

Paul reminds us we were not part of God's family, but now, as Christians we are, united together (v13).

Christ is the chief cornerstone.

The church is the dwelling in which God lives.

**What does this passage say about the church, and what Jesus has done in shaping the church?**

**Why do you think it's important to remember that we were once far off from God?**

***Heart***

Have you ever felt like a stranger, or gone somewhere where you feel uncomfortable and out of place? God's covenants began with Abraham/ later the Children of Israel/ David.

**God's presence brings peace (v14) how do we experience God's presence & peace in the life of our church, life group, missional community?**

**How does this truth create unity within the body?**

***Hands***

God brings together diverse people together into the church (us)!

God lives in us. As a church we are to bring glory to Him.

**How does it affect us to know we are to show a united front in our mission for God (redeeming and restoring the world)?**