

Essential: Getting Back to the Basics

Pt 2: Christ Alone

Eph 2:4-10 ESV **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Discipleship Questions

1. The desire to affirm our salvation can lead us to try to earn God's love and favor through what we deem as good works. One of the proclamations of the Reformation was that we are saved by "Christ Alone." How does it make you feel to discover that you don't have to do anything to earn God's love or mercies?
2. We discussed three ways we can respond to a gift: we can feel undeserving and therefore reject it, we can fail to see its cost and respond ungratefully, or we can accept it joyfully which is then reflected in our actions. Does the fruit in your life demonstrate that you are joyful for God's gift of salvation? If not, what is God speaking to you today?

Guided Prayer

- Thank Jesus for paying for your sin and securing salvation for you.
- If you struggle with trying to earn God's love or favor, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a sense of peace trusting that God's grace is not dependent on your works.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can reveal the message of God's amazing grace to those around you.
- Pray for individuals that you know who are not following Christ. Pray that God will reveal His grace to them.