

May 15, 2011

Rethinking the Basis of All Relationships Jon Ritner

Ephesians 2:1-10

1. How has your week been? **Open answer.** How have you received or given grace this week? **Open answer.**
2. How do you define grace? **Open answer.**  
God's  
Righteousness  
At  
Christ's  
Expense
3. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Why is Satan described as the prince of the power of the air? Does anyone have a different translation that might better describe verse 2? **He is the ruler over the spirits of this earthly world.** What is the wrath of God? **His holy displeasure against sin.** What is the difference between grace and mercy? **Mercy is withholding what we do deserve, grace is giving us what we do not deserve.** Why are both necessary for salvation? **It is not enough to just be forgiven, we must also be credited with the righteousness of Jesus to enter heaven. Mercy brings us from a negative to 0, grace credits our account a positive.**
4. What preposition in Ephesians 2 indicates that we are in a relationship with Jesus as a result of our salvation? **With.** In what three things are we now with Christ? **Alive with Christ, raised with Christ, seated with Christ in heaven.** For what purpose are we brought into Heaven, according to verse 7? **In order that God may demonstrate to us the incomparable riches of his grace. So he may show off his love for us forever.**
5. Three times in Ephesians 3:1-13 the word grace is used. In each case, what is the purpose for God's grace given to Paul? **To make it known to the Gentiles: to serve the gospel by preaching to the Gentiles.**
6. What is significant about this time in history according to Paul in chapter 3? How is grace demonstrated in this new revelation? **The Gentiles, formerly unclean "dogs" are now part of God's family along with the Jews. The Gentiles are part of the family through Grace.**
7. What other impact should God's grace make in our lives according to verse 3:12? **We should be confident of our access to God in prayer and worship.**

8. How do you think your life would have turned out if there was not a BUT GOD chapter in your life? What path were you headed on before God intervened?  
**Open answers.**
9. What keeps us from demonstrating God's grace to others in our relationships? How will I reconnect with God's grace this week if I find myself lacking grace for others? **Open answers.**
10. What "works" in your life right now do you feel like Jesus has laid out before you? How does it impact you to think that Jesus is the one who prepares them in advance for us? **Open answers.**