



## RESTORED: I am Not That Person Any More (Ephesians 2:1-10)

#3 in the series, The Game of LIFE: Ephesians Edition

September 27, 2009

### Core Truth:

God brings the dead to life and crafts the living into masterpieces.

### We Are Saved...

FROM death (2:1-3)

Three Aspects of Death

- Separation from God
- Enslavement to evil
- Objects of God's wrath

BY grace (2:4-9)

THROUGH faith (2:8b)

TO good works (2:10)

### The Implications for Today:

1. If you aren't saved, you really need to be saved.
2. If you are saved, you really need to grow and go.
3. If you are saved, you really need to worship.

fold here



### Getting to Know Each Other

1. Create a sentence using three prepositions (i.e., of, to, in, with, for, on) that describe what you want to do when you are sad or worn out (i.e., I want to sit on a boat with Cheetos and Diet Crème Sodas until the stars come out).

### Getting Started

2. What one word would describe what your non-Christian friends think of Christianity? Explain why you picked that word.
3. The words of the Jars of Clay song, Dead Man, are: "So carry me. I'm just a dead man, lying on the carpet; can't find a heartbeat. Make me breathe; I want to be a new man. Tired of the old one; out with the old plan." What resonates with you about this song?
4. Summarize what you learned from Ephesians 2:1-10 and the statement, "We are saved from death, by grace, through faith, to good works."

### Digging Deeper

5. Read Ephesians 1:1-3. Is it difficult to think of yourself (if you're a pre-believer) or your former self (if you're a Christian) and your non-Christian friends as "dead"? Explain. How do you think non-Christians come to realize their true condition?
6. Let's do a case study to think about salvation. Look at John 3 and discuss the following:
  - a. What was Nicodemus' spiritual state when he approached Jesus (vs. 1-2)? Was he a Christian, seeker, or something else?
  - b. Since he wasn't a Christian, according to Ephesians 2:1, what was his true condition?
  - c. What did Jesus say had to happen before Nicodemus would be a Christian (vs. 3)?
  - d. What did Nicodemus have to "do" in order to be "born again" (vs. 15, 16)? Remember, Nicodemus was a Pharisee. Do religious duties and knowledge have anything to do with salvation? Do people today think they do?
  - e. Look at Numbers 21:1-9. This is a true story that Jesus was using (John 3:14-15) to illustrate "saving faith" to Nicodemus. So, what is involved in "saving faith"? Compare to John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9. (ANSWER: repentance and commitment along with intellectual belief, but none of these is a "work" that earns it; they are how we receive salvation).
7. How can God be both the one who distributes "wrath" and who has "great love for us" (Ephesians 1:3-4)?
8. Look at Ephesians 2:10 and say what comes to your mind.
9. What would change in your life this week if you comprehended that you are "restored" and "not that person anymore?"