

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 4/21/2024

Life in the Light – Ephesians 2:11-22

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- People of Ephesus were a melting pot. All are different but they had in common..
 - Pagan and Imperial Worship
 - You could worship anything you like, as long as you worship Roman gods and the Emperor.
 - There were temples everywhere
 - Paul was sharing Jesus among all this.
 - When you worship Jesus, God in the flesh, you can't worship anything else.
 - Lives were changed because of Paul sharing the message of Jesus, even though there were no temples to offer sacrifices.
- Every letter from Paul to the churches is a direct communication urging them to become Everyday Disciples.
 - Week 1: Everyday Disciples consider what God has done more than what we want Him to do.
 - Week 2: Everyday Disciples embrace they are saved by grace which leads to good works, not the other way around.
- **Eph. 2:11-12** I want to remind you, you were on the outside looking in, separate from all the covenants and promises.
- **Eph. 2:13** “But by the blood of Jesus...” is saying you're not on the outside anymore.
 - When you're far from Jesus all you care about is you.
 - **Have you ever been far from Jesus?**
 - When you're near to Jesus, you stop looking like yourself.
 - **Have you ever been close to Jesus?**
 - The blood of Jesus is available to ALL people at all times.
- **Eph. 2:14** Jesus IS our peace.
 - It's not about the law, it's about God who loved you first.
- **Eph 2:15-17** Peace is the message of Jesus no matter how near or far you are from Him.
- **Eph 2:18** This is the Gospel
 - God is saying, “you used to be sinful, but now all I see is my Son, so come on in, I want you part of my family.
 - **Following Jesus is not about following rules. He unites us with each other and with God. He is our peace.**
- **Eph 2:19-20** Jesus is not another apostle or prophet; He is the chief cornerstone, the first piece of the foundation of our faith.
 - The cornerstone determines the direction of the whole building. If the cornerstone is a little crooked, the whole structure will be out of whack.
 - **If Jesus is not the cornerstone of the things you build, those things will collapse. He also has to be the cornerstone of You.**
 - **What are you building in your life? What or who is the foundation? What or who is the chief cornerstone?**
- **Eph 2:21** Something is being built in each one of us.
 - We are a temple and Jesus must be the cornerstone of our own spiritual growth. **What does this mean to you?**

- We don't add Jesus to our life, He is the cornerstone.
- He's calling you to chase after Him and let Him be the piece of your life that matters.
 - **What matters in your life? Is Jesus part of that?**
- **How do I live a life in the light as an Everyday Disciple?**
 - Everyday Disciples know if our personal life is not built on Jesus, our relationships can't be either.
 - Jesus made a way for you to no longer feel far from Him.
- Car conversation: **How can God use us to bring someone who is far from Jesus close to Him?**

When Jesus is the most essential piece of our lives, we find unity with God and others. We find peace.