

Foundations **God's Work**

Ephesians 2:8-10

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:26-27

Four Facts About All People:

- **All People are Made in the Image of God**
- **All People are Made Male or Female**
- **All People are Made to Steward the Gifts of God**
- **All People are Made for Community**

“We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.” Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 3)

The Human Condition:

- **We are Sinners by Nature and by Choice, which makes us...**
 - **Enemies of God** Romans 5:6-10
 - **Under the Wrath of God** Ephesians 2:3-4
 - **Completely Separated from God** Ephesians 2:13
- **God's Character Requires the Ultimate Punishment of all Sin**
 - **He cannot ignore sin**
 - **He cannot allow sin**
 - **He cannot excuse sin**
 - **He will punish sin!**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

Main Idea: God's Work In Us Prepares Us For God's Work Through Us

- I. **God's Work in Us** - *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*
Ephesians 2:8-9

When it comes to Salvation, most have the whole thing backwards, believing that avoiding bad things & doing good things will save you. Not true at all!

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy...” Titus 3:5a

If you are saved, you can readily admit that God gets all the credit for that. You didn't deserve it, but God saved you anyway. If you have never been saved, it's very simple how to be saved. There is an intellectual element (convinced of resurrection) & a volitional element (placing trust).

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:13

- II. **God's Work Through Us** - *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*
Ephesians 2:10

God's work in sending Jesus to die & save us from our sins always had another purpose in mind. He worked to create us and save us so he could work through us to make a difference. God has prepared something for you!

“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” James 2:17

“We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.” Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 5)

If you haven't surrendered to God's work in you, you'll never experience God's work through you. If you have surrendered to God's work in you, it's time to fully embrace God's work through you!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* – Josh McDowell (1999)
- *Theology for the Church* – Daniel L. Akin (2007)
- *Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* – Ronald F. Youngblood (1995)
- *MacArthur New Testament Commentary* – John MacArthur (2004)
- *Strong's Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *How to Connect with God* – James Merritt (2010)
- *God, I've got a Question* – James Merritt (2011)
- *Knowing God* – J.I. Packer (1973)
- *Doctrine* – Mark Driscoll (2010)

