



Series: Identity, Who You Are in Christ
Passage: Ephesians 2:8-22
Title: Dead, Alive, Together Part 1
Speaker: Pastor David Menard 6/07/2026

Discussion Starter –If you’re familiar with team sports you have heard that there is no “I” in TEAM. How does this saying help to inform us of our identity in Christ? What do we give up joining the team? What do we expect in return? Where do we find our fulfillment?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What influences, (before coming to Christ) are identified here that are said to govern our walk in life? How do our daily behaviors shape or create our identity?
 - a. How much influence does your self-conception of your identity have over your actual behavior?
2. What did God do to rescue us, (verse 4-5)? What was our condition when He rescued us?
3. How are grace, salvation, and faith related together in verse 8? What is the work? What is the engine that performs the work? What is the conduit?
 - b. Which of these three important words is referred to by the pronoun “that”, and said to be “not of yourselves”?

Read Ephesians 1:11-22

4. Paul points out the prior hopeless condition of the Ephesians, as Gentiles in the flesh and not recognized by the Jews, (the circumcision in the flesh). How did their lack of Judaism contribute to their hopeless condition?
5. The Ephesians are called to remember the time before they came to Christ. What identity could they claim after they are said to be without a Messiah, without a people with promise, a people without a covenant, and without hope of reconciling with our Creator?
 - c. What alternate identities do people create for themselves to replace this broken relationship with their Creator? Is the phrase, “without hope” too extreme? Are there any alternate identities that can provide a satisfactory understanding of our place in this creation?
 - d. How can we respond to someone who says, “I’m glad that you believe in Jesus, but it just isn’t for me, I don’t need that in my life”?
6. What is the broadest meaning of the term, “brought near” in verse 13? Is there any implication of a second-class membership behind those of the commonwealth of Israel?
7. How are we brought near by the blood of Christ? Does Jesus’ blood speak of His life or His death, (Leviticus 17:11)? What did the sprinkling of blood accomplish for Aaron and his sons in Exodus 29:21?
8. How does the “but now” in verse 13 correspond to the “but God” in verse 4? What good news alternative is presented in contrast to the bleak condition that precedes each of these “buts”?
9. How many references can you find to “in Christ”, (Him, His flesh, one body...) in these verses? What is the significance of our identity being described as “in Christ”, (and not for Christ, by Christ, with Christ, or to Christ)?
 - e. Knowing we are described as “in Christ” how should we think of our identity as compared to another brother or sister in Christ?