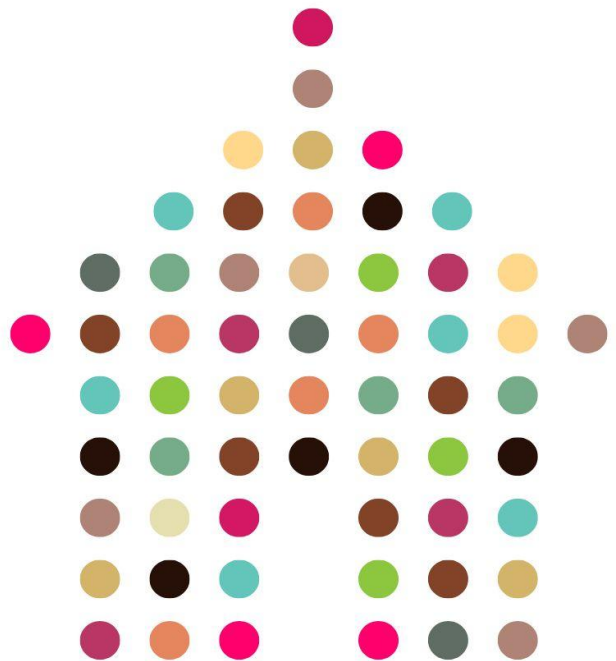




EPHESIANS

We are Jesus' Church

RADICAL INTERDEPENDENCE (PART 1)



PAUL

APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST
PRISON, ROME



GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE

FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST
EPHESUS, ROMAN EMPIRE, ASIA MINOR

Listen to the Letter to the Ephesians

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Ephesians 2 (NLT)

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.



Ephesians 2 (NLT)

¹¹ Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2 (NLT)

¹⁴ For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

Ephesians 2 (NLT)

¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.



Ephesians 2 (NLT)

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Because of Jesus' work on the cross,
our reconciliation with God
is completely bound to
our reconciliation with others



Ephesians 2 (NLT)

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“Being Carefully Joined Together in Jesus”

INTERDEPENDENCE

Whole & Connected

Unity without Uniformity

Jesus-led, Spirit-empowered

“We are unique parts”

Self-Sufficiency

Insularity

Hyper-Autonomy

Self-Approved

“I don’t need anybody”



Subservience

Tribalism

Groupthink

People-Pleasing

“I must blend in”



Invitation

- Sit with Jesus in these ideas this week.
- Talk to someone you trust about what He brings up.

