



## Outcast No More

Week of January 31 , 2021

### Intro Discussion Questions:

- *If you read the Bible Reading Plan from last week, did any verses stand out to you that you would like to share?*
- *Have you ever been an outcast or felt like an outcast? (i.e. not part of a particular group, not chosen for a team, etc.) Describe the situation and how it affected you.*

### Read Bible Study Summary:

What does it mean to part of the family of God? In our main text, Paul makes it clear that Jew and Gentile believers are equally a part of the Body of Christ and are being built together to be a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit! A person who has accepted Jesus into their life through faith, is no longer an outcast, but a member of the body of Christ. God does not want us to live as outcasts, but to connect with His family, and to allow His Holy Spirit to dwell within us to accomplish great things!

### Read Main Scripture

- **Read Ephesians 2:10-22**

### The Truth About Outcasts

#### 1. **You Were Never Meant to be an Outcast (Eph. 2:10)**

- Isn't it interesting how Paul said, "**WE** are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for **US** to do." In America, with our individualism, we would have preferred Paul write..."For **YOU** are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for **YOU** to do." But He didn't say **YOU**, He said **WE** and **US**!
- The truth is God created us for family. Personal family and His family, the church!

#### 2. **It's Not Cool to Be An Outcast (Eph. 2:12)**

- Some people find their identity in being different in an outcast kind of way! In other words, some people want to be different just to be different! As Christians, we must be prepared to be an outcast

for Jesus, but we are never outcasts from the family of God. However, someone who decides to remain an outcast from God's family by rejecting Jesus needs to realize what they are missing out on.

- An outcast remains separated from Christ.
- An outcast is excluded from citizenship in God's family
- An outcast loses out on all the promises of God
- An outcast remains without hope and without God in the world.
  - **Ask Question** - Think about your life before you accepted Christ. What do you have in your relationship with Christ now that you didn't realize you were missing then?

## The Truth About an "Outcast No More"

### 1. Your Inclusion Was Costly (Eph. 2:13-16)

- Jesus died so that Jews and non-Jews alike could become a part of the family of God. He tore down the dividing walls that had separated the Jews and the Gentiles. He made it possible for anyone who would accept God's love to be reconciled to God and to become a joint heir with Christ! He made it possible for you to be "outcast no more!"
  - **Read Isaiah 53:3-5** - He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. 4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.
  - **Ask Question:** What are your thoughts on the following quote? "Jesus became an outcast for you so that you would be an outcast no more."

### 2. Your Inclusion Comes When You Decide to Trust Jesus (Eph. 2:17-18)

- It is no longer adherence to the law that makes a person right with God or brings peace into their life, rather it is the grace and mercy of God given through Christ and His Gospel message.
- Jew and Gentiles alike have access to God the Father through the Son. And our access to God is 24/7 because God actually lives in us by way of His precious Holy Spirit. We are never alone!! Once we are in Christ, we are outcast no more!!
  - **Read Ephesians 2:4-9** - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions —it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.
  - **Ask Question** - What are the most common ways that people try to "work" to achieve salvation? How would you explain the gospel of "grace" in your own words to a person who still believes their good works will save them?

### 3. Your inclusion comes with benefits (Eph. 2:19-22)

- Verses 19-22 contains many benefits or consequences of being in the family of God!

- No longer foreigners and aliens
- Fellow citizens with God's people
- Members of God's household
- Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
- With Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone
- Joined together rising to become a holy temple in the Lord
- Built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
- We are Outcasts no more! Aimless no more! Disconnected no more! Powerless no more! Lonely no more! Insecure no more!
  - **Ask Question** - *What is the most significant benefit that you have experienced as an "outcast no more?" Why?*

## Closing In Prayer

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.