

The Jesus Difference – Week 2 – 2-12-23 - Pastor Guy

1. What difference has Jesus made in the world?
2. What difference has Jesus made in your life?

*Ephesians 2:1-7 - As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.<sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,<sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.<sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> 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. The Apostle Paul is praying for the Christians in the city of Ephesus and by extension all Christians in these verses. What stands out to you the most from these verses?*

3. What was your life like before you met Jesus?
4. According to Ephesians 2:1 what was your life characterized by before we received Jesus' forgiveness?
5. On a scale of 1-10 how 'dead' were you before receiving Jesus?
6. Pastor Guy said that the reason we are dead is the result of our sin. Doing things that God has said not to do (sins of commission), and not doing things God has said to do (sins of omission). Which are more of a struggle for you, sins of commission or sins of omission?

*Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

*James 4:17 - If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*

*Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in<sup>[a]</sup> Christ Jesus our Lord*

7. Why don't we always 'feel' dead when we sin?
8. In what area of your life do you tend to think that you don't need Jesus?
9. In what ways do you minimize the working of Jesus in your life?
10. In what areas do you not allow Jesus to be a part of your life?
11. Pastor Guy said that if Jesus isn't making a difference in any area of your life it is because you have not allowed him into that area of your life. What do you think about this statement?

*John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*Peter 2:24 - "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."*

12. What did God do about your spiritual death as a result of your sin? (Ephesians 2:4-6)
13. When did you first realize that God loves you?

*Ephesians 2:8-10 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

14. How do we experience the difference of Jesus in our lives?
15. What role do works play in our salvation?
16. Is there a connection between our good works and the difference Jesus makes in our lives?

*Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

*Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

17. Why is it important that we do good works?
18. Why is it important that we share the gospel (the good news about Jesus)?
19. Will you intentionally do something each day in the next week to show God's love to someone around you?
20. Will you intentionally share Jesus with someone this week?