

GROWTH GUIDE / January 22, 2023

Here's a quick recap of our current series, and then some points and scriptures to help you as you discuss with your group.

Current Series: Seated

Based in Ephesians 2:1-10, esp. verse 6, where Paul writes that "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms." It matters where we sit because where we sit determines our identity (we're shaped by what we hear), our destiny (we're guided by what we see), and our activity (we're motivated by what we were made for).

This week we talked about how being seated with Christ changes what we do, and also why we do what we do because everyone is doing something. In fact, what we see in our passage is that we're either doing dead works or destined works.

This week's Big Idea: **Jesus is the difference between dead works and destined works.**

Key points:

Let's talk about dead works

- Even dead people do things because being dead means being dead spiritually, not physically
- Works done while we are separated from God are dead works
- The problem is that dead works are often good works done for the wrong reason
- Matthew 7:21-23
 - These people did good things, but Jesus called their works evil
 - Why? Because Jesus wants more than religion - He wants relationship
 - Religious activity without relational intimacy is a dead work
- When we try to find our identity through our activity, we run the risk of trying to earn God's favor or prove our worth

Let's talk about destined works

- Ephesians 2:10 says we've been made for (destined for) good works
- Destined works flow from our identity (knowing who we are)
- Until we know who we are, we don't know what to do
- John 13:3-4
 - Jesus knew His identity (the Father's Son)
 - He knew His destiny (why He was sent)
 - His activity came from that (He got up and grabbed a towel and...)

Let's talk about the difference

- It's Jesus!!
- Ephesians 2:1-10 starts with us being dead and ends with us being destined
- The difference is the mercy of God through Jesus (vv. 4-7)
- In the clip from The Chosen, we saw Nicodemus and Mary
 - Nicodemus showed the frustration of trying to figure out how to get to Jesus
 - Mary showed the freedom of simply walking with the Jesus she's already met
 - Nicodemus portrays religious activity; Mary shows relational intimacy