

## LifeGroup Questions

Based on: Ephesians 2:1-10

June 16, 2019

### **Overview**

Negotiating is a skill. You can negotiate your way through a situation or through an obstacle. Usually when it comes to sin in our lives we are great self-negotiators. We negotiate in our minds the badness of our sin and weigh it against the good things we do. Typically we try to make sure the good outweighs the bad. Here is the deal when you self-negotiate sin in your mind; you will always win. You will always win in your mind, but lose in your heart.

Paul writes in Ephesians 2:1 that everyone is dead in sin. Dead means dead. There is not a stronger way for Paul to describe the current situation of all sinners. Before putting faith in Jesus did you consider yourself to be dead before God? I know this is something I have a hard time grasping. Before Jesus I knew I needed help. I knew things were not right in my life. I knew I was a sinner, but I didn't really consider myself to be dead. I was someone who just made bad choices and needed Jesus to help me make better ones. This is where self-negotiating comes to play.

Paul describes a very dim portrait of mankind in Ephesians 2:1-3. Ephesians 2:4 starts with, "But God". What follows these two words would determine the fate of every person who has ever lived. It doesn't say, "But God, seeing the sinful nature of man decided to give up and leave them to their wicked ways."

Ephesians 2:4-5 reads: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved." It is God's great love for us that brought about our salvation. It is not based on any actions or thoughts of man, but it is a gift from God. In order to be brought to life you once had to be dead. We were all once dead in sin, but are now alive in Jesus.

### **Bible Study:** Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Compare the condition of all humanity in Ephesians 2:1-3 to the condition in Ephesians 4-10.
2. Without Jesus do you consider yourself to be dead before God?
3. Jesus didn't take good people and make them better. He took dead people and made them alive. Why is this important to understand?

4. Ephesians 2:1-10 is a summary of the Gospel. How would you use these verses to lead someone to Jesus?
5. Why is it tempting to boast in our own good works?