A.R.M.

Created

Ephesians

Keywords Devotional

Ephesians: Created

Ephesians Ch 2, v 10

For we are His workmanship, CREATED in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We as the church are a masterpiece of God. We're called His workmanship because He created us in Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, we're given a new nature, a new life, a new status, and a new heart and mind. All of these things were formed by the master potter Himself.

God creates our new lives in His Son. This includes every dimension of our new life in Christ. This doesn't only refer to the individuals who are created new in Jesus and born again to new spiritual life. This is referring to the mystical body of Christ, the church.

The family of God (new humanity) is created in Jesus and we, as His body, are created for good works that God has designed for us to walk in. God creates a brand new family in His Son, by creating new spiritual life through Jesus, and then He prepares good works that our newly created lives are fitted for.

Content provided by Above Reproach Ministry
abovereproachministry.com

Thoughts & Prayers

Connecting the Verses

The church is the workmanship (masterpiece) of God. Every individual believer has been personally formed and spiritually created into something new by the hand of God Himself. Before this could happen, Jesus had to remove what kept us from becoming a part of the family of God. Jesus creates peace through His cross in order that both Jew and non-Jews could enter the family of God.

He makes peace with God for us and invites us into the peace He's created through His sacrificial life and death. Our old nature and life kept us from entering into a relationship with God and His people. This is why Jesus removes our old lives entirely in order to create for us a new life and nature in His likeness. He removes hostility and replaces it with peace.

To be created as new humanity in Christ, the old version of ourselves has to pass away. Jesus gives us a newly created nature and status in place of our old ones. Now we are new humanity in Christ. Any believing person from any tribe or nation can become a part of this family of God through their faith in Jesus. Jesus Himself creates our new spiritual life after His own likeness. But this is only possible because of His death and resurrection.

Thoughts & Prayers

Connecting the Verses

God doesn't change His method of Creation when it comes to the church. Jesus was there, in the beginning, laying the foundation of the earth. He created the heavens and the earth as the divine word of God alongside the Father.

This is why Jesus is capable of creating new life in Himself. The same God who brings the universe into existence is the same God who creates our new mode of existence. Jesus is the only One powerful enough to create spiritual life for us in Himself, and all of creation testifies to His power and ability.

Thoughts & Prayers

Connecting the Verses

When Jesus creates new spiritual life for His people, He guarantees that they will be holy and blameless in the sight of God. Our new selves are made in the image of Jesus so that He restores us back to what God always intended for humanity to be.

God's creation process involves coming down into our world to be what no human ever could, and through His humble act of love and sacrifice, Jesus creates us to be something we could never be on our own.

Holiness and righteousness are a part of the new identity and status that Christ has created for us to enjoy. And, He is the only One powerful enough to make us perfect and righteous in the sight of God. Nothing else in existence has that creative power and authority.

Thoughts & Prayers

Ephesians: Created

Connecting Ephesians 2:1-10

Our old lives and nature were corrupted by sin. We only had a fleshly nature that desired the things of this world and the darkness of sin. We were given over to the spiritual forces of evil in this world through our sin and rebellion against God. Paul says that we were by nature children of wrath. That was our identity and status.

But, when God creates us to be an entirely new creation in His Son, He completely erases everything about our old life and identity. Our physical body (fleshly nature) still desires sin and we might even find ourselves falling into sin. But this doesn't change our new identity and status in Christ. Our new position in Christ is not influenced by our performance and efforts. Sin is no longer our identity. Now we're defined by the love of Jesus. The love of God is what determines our newly created identity and status in Jesus. We are no longer children of wrath. We're created in Jesus as beloved children of God.

Thoughts & Prayers

Connecting Ephesians 2:1-10
(Continued)

Since we become a new creation by God's grace, we maintain this status and new life by His grace. Our newly created selves are the product of His grace and not our performance which means that His grace enables us to remain new creations in Christ for eternity. When God changes our nature, He makes our new lives compatible with the good spiritual works He desires to accomplish.

In other words, part of being a new creation means that we're walking in the good works that God has prepared for us. And, these good works are designed by God to complement our new nature and status in Jesus. To be God's masterpiece means that we are living as a new creation for His glory. Good works aren't the way into a new creation, but good works will result from becoming a new creation. We are the result of Jesus' perfect work. And, as His new creation, we will follow Him into the good works He has for us while we rest in His ultimate finished work on the cross.

Thoughts & Prayers

Ephesians: Created

Connecting Ephesians 2:13-22

In order to have peace with God, someone powerful enough has to create that peace with God for us. This is what Jesus has done. Our old selves were under the wrath of God and we were hostile towards Him. So, we couldn't have peace with God in our old sinful, rebellious conditions. Our very nature was deserving of wrath. This is why Jesus comes to remove the hostility that we have with God, by bringing into existence a brand new life and nature that is at peace with God. He removes the old nature and identity we had.

But, before these new spiritual lives can be created for us, Jesus has to pay the penalty of our sin, fulfill the Law, and die in our place as one who is under the wrath of God. He represents humanity and their sin when He hangs there on the cross bearing the weight of our punishment. Jesus becomes sin when He knows no sin and endures the punishment that children of wrath deserve. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has removed the debt of sin, the death we deserve, and the power of the enemy of our lives. Now, through faith in Jesus, God spiritually creates us to be people who are at peace with God and the rest of the church. When God creates our new nature and status in Christ, these are designed to have peace with God.

Thoughts & Prayers

Connecting Ephesians 2:13-22

(Continued)

Jesus actually came and preached this peace in the gospel. When Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom, He was declaring that humanity could have peace with God and be restored back to Him through their trust in Jesus. He was bringing the invitation into a new creation. Now, that we've been created as new humanity in Christ, we not only have peace with God but joyful access to His very near presence. This invitation is available to anyone of any ethnicity who would trust in Christ.

And, as a new creation in Christ, we are created to be the very temple of God. Just as Solomon built the temple (a house for God), Jesus built an eternal house and has created a greater temple in Himself, which is His church. We, collectively, are the temple of God on the earth. We're created to be mobile temples that fill the earth with His glory.

In other words, we are created to house the presence of God, which is why we're filled with His Spirit. Our newly created nature is capable of dwelling in close proximity to the presence of God's Spirit. And, it is Jesus who holds His temple together just as He holds creation together.

Thoughts & Prayers

Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 7-13

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Ephesians: Created

Connecting Ephesians 3:7-13

Paul is made a minister of the gospel. But, before He can accomplish his calling as an Apostle, he has to become a new creation in Christ, like every other believer. In other words, the same grace that appoints Paul to be an Apostle is the same grace that creates Paul into what he needs to become to effectively serve God's Kingdom.

Paul says he's the very least of all the saints because he used to violently fight against the church. But, this didn't stop God from creating Paul as one of His own beloved children. Now, as a new creation in Christ, Paul is empowered to bring the gospel to the nations. In other words, Paul's new life in Christ effectively empowers him to invite others into a new creation. Paul is called by God to reveal the hidden mystery of God's eternal plan. And, God's plan from the very beginning, was always to bring the nations to His Son to be created into a new humanity. God's plan was to create one new family in Jesus out of people from every tribe and nation.

Thoughts & Prayers

Connecting Ephesians 3:7-13
(Continued)

It was always about restoring the relationship between God and man and bringing humanity back into the garden presence of God through Jesus. But, in order to enter into His presence, humanity needs to be created into an entirely new creation that can remain in the glorious presence of God. Now, God uses new humanity to reveal His hidden wisdom and the spiritual forces in the heavenly places. When God creates new spiritual life for a person, that process of regeneration and rebirth is actually displaying a hidden dimension of God's wisdom to the spiritual beings in the spiritual realms. Now, part of our purpose as a new creation, is to walk in the newness of life and reveal the wisdom of God even more to the spiritual rulers and authorities in heavenly places.

Connecting Ephesians 3:7-13
(Continued)

In other words, God spiritually creates us in the likeness of His Son in order for us to reveal hidden aspects of His wisdom and grace. Now that we have a newly created identity and nature in Jesus, confidence and boldness are appropriate for our lives. We can boldly approach God's throne room presence daily because we're so confident in the perfect work of Jesus.

We know that God has made us spiritually alive in order to be capable of enjoying His very near presence. We are confident that He has created us in the righteousness and holiness of Jesus Himself, which means we can confidently stand in the presence of God through our faith in Jesus.

Thoughts & Prayers

Ephesians Chapter 4, v. 17-24

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians: Created

Connecting Ephesians 4:17-24

Paul describes the life and the nature of rebellious unbelievers. Their minds are fruitless, and they have vain imaginations that amount to nothing of eternal value. Their understanding and reasoning faculties are darkened by sin. They don't have spiritual eyes to see, and therefore they are ignorant and hardened towards the truth. And, Paul tells believers not to live as the unbelievers do. Their lives are filled with sin and darkness, which isn't appropriate for our newly created life in Christ.

As believers who are made new and spiritually alive, we are expected to live with higher standards than unbelievers. Our newly created natures aren't compatible with a life of sin. Sin is not appropriate to the new status we've been given by God. You expect a believer to live differently now that God has given them new spiritual life. Everything God has created us to be is contrary to the sin and darkness of our old lives. We are righteous and holy in the sight of God because of our new identity.

Thoughts & Prayers

Connecting Ephesians 4:17-24
(Continued)

But, even though we are a new creation in Jesus, we still have a responsibility to choose to live as new humanity every day. This is where we see the difference between our lifestyle and our status and position in Christ. Our new spiritual life should fundamentally change the way that we live. God created us holy and righteous in His Son so that we could walk in holiness and obedience to God.

He made us righteous so that we would live righteously. We are called each day to put off (reject) our old sinful way of living and choose to instead, put on (live like) the new life we have in Jesus. Our newly created self should lead us into the good works of holiness and righteousness that God has created for us to accomplish.

Thoughts & Prayers