**Title:***Reconciled to the New*

**Scripture:**Ephesians 1:1-2

**Speaker:** Jeff Terrell

**Date**: January 13, 2019

**Big Idea:**New creation must permeate the lives of those who are “in Christ.”

**Outline**

1.  Submit to True Authority (1a)
2.  Show True Identity (1b)
3.  Savor True Grace (2)

***WHAT DID YOU LEARN?***

1. What is *different*about the reconciliation provided through Christ for *all*things as compared to areas of our *horizontal*lives that we work to provide reconciliation (examples: bank account, relationships, etc…)? What does this teach you about God’s character and work? How does this influence your worship, walk, work, and witness for God?

2. Who *ultimately* the defines “grace”? What passages in God’s Word help reveal and define true grace? Who is the source of true grace (see verse 2)? Are you willing to learn what true grace is in Ephesians and live out what you learn? What do you need to do to prepare your heart and mind, so that you will be receptive to God’s Word, conviction, and transformation?

***HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?***

**Confess**

1. American culture often resists or - at a minimum - is skeptical about authority. Why is it eternally important that we submit to true authority? What defines true authority? What area of life do you struggle to submit to authority (job, government, etc.)? What patterns could you develop to show your submission to God? What patterns could you develop to show joyful submission to the other authorities God has placed in your life?

2. One accusation people today make against Scripture is that it is not relevant. What comparisons of ancient Ephesus to our own culture argue that the Bible is actually *extremely*relevant, despite being written almost 2,000 years ago? Do you have any thoughts, beliefs, or actions that would reflect personal doubt about the relevance of God’s Word? What course of action do you need to take to fully believe and trust the truth of God’s Word?

**Renew Your Mind**

1. Christianity is *not*about a Gospel that is about becoming more religious, conforming to a list of rules, or becoming a better person. It is about becoming a completely *new*person! What are ways we can easily slip into a Christianity that *is*about religion, rule-following, or just being morally or socially *better*? How does the fact that we are actually *new* (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17) provide confidence, encouragement, comfort, and conviction (see 1 Thessalonians 5:14)? How can this truth about being *new*in Christ impact *your*life this week?

2. What are some of *your*identities (examples: American, wife, son, manager…)? What authenticates these identities in your life? What identity does Paul make of the audience of his letter in the second half of verse 1? What phrase does he use that differentiates them from others who share this same identity? What important second phrase does he use (hint: after “faithful” in the ESV) that supersedes their being *in Ephesus*? What does it mean to be *in Christ*? How does this play out in *your*life? How does it (or if you could grow in this…how *should it*) supersede the identities you provided at the beginning of this question?

***Live It Out***

Find an accountability partner. Commit to keeping each other accountable on being ready for God’s work in each other’s life throughout the study of Ephesians. Pray that God will give you understanding about His marvelous character and work. Pray God will expose the corrupt desires in your hearts that leads to sinful behavior. Pray God will transform your hearts to live in more Christ-like way during your study of Ephesians. Make a plan to support each other in the growth process (daily texts, weekly small group, regular pray, etc.).

***READ AHEAD***

Read Ahead - Ephesians 1:3-14…what roles do each member of the Trinity fulfill in the reconciliation of sinners to a new creation in Christ?