

Message Notes | Identity

Part 5: God's Handiwork

Ephesians 2:1-10

→ are you a performer or an avoider?

#1 When you doubt your worth, you'll spend your life

trying to _____ or _____.

→ performer Paul knew it didn't work - **vs. 1-3**

#2 Performance couldn't _____.

Avoidance couldn't _____.

→ grace is the initiating factor - **vs. 4-7**

#3 Grace _____ the performance

to _____ what could not be _____.

→ this is not from yourselves - **vs. 8-9**

#4 Faith _____ the avoidance

of what God has already _____.

→ from performer to avoider to handiwork - **John 21:16**

→ you are God's handiwork - **vs. 10**

Group Questions | Identity

Part 5: God's Handiwork

Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Are you more of a performer or avoider? Why do you think you tend toward one of these responses when faced with feelings of insignificance?
2. If you took your cue from the culture around you, how would you determine your own significance or the significance of others?

Why can this approach to finding significance be difficult to overcome?
3. **Read Ephesians 2:1-3.** Paul talks about how our performance (works) couldn't save us. What are some common ways people might knowingly or unknowingly try to earn God's favor or love?
4. Grace interrupts the performance to give what could not be earned. Where do you see this in the parable of the lost son (Luke 15:11-32)?

What "performance" might God want to interrupt in your life?
5. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** You are saved by grace through faith. How does this truth impact the way you relate to God? How does it impact the way you relate to other people?
6. **Read Ephesians 2:10.** What does it mean for you to live out of the truth that your value is in what God has done, not what you do?
7. Whether you tend to be a performer or an avoider, you are God's handiwork, created in Christ to do good works. What's one way this truth might shape your life this week?

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Ephesians 2:1-10

→ are you a performer or an avoider?

#1 When you doubt your worth, you'll spend your life trying to earn it or escape it.

→ performer Paul knew it didn't work - **vs. 1-3**

#2 Performance couldn't save us. Avoidance couldn't excuse us.

→ grace is the initiating factor - **vs. 4-7**

#3 Grace interrupts the performance to give what could not be earned.

→ this is not from yourselves - **vs. 8-9**

#4 Faith overcomes the avoidance of what God has already addressed.

→ from performer to avoider to handiwork - **John 21:16**

→ you are God's handiwork - **vs. 10**

Bible Reading for Today

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ 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. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.