Standing Firm-Loving Well: Purpose
Ephesians 2:1-10
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Ephesians 2:1-10: As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 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. 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. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

Our Vision: *Connect with Christ, Church, and Community*

1. _____ identity theft

_____ a new identity: Jesus then said to the people watching the spectacle of the woman who was caught in the act of adultery, I am the Light of the world. The one who chooses to follow me will never ever walk in darkness! Instead, they will have in them God's Light guiding them to eternal life. John 8:12 (JOT)

_____ our design: Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God . . . body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out . . . how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Psalm 139:13-14 (MSG)

2. _____ a greater sense of purpose

_____ to minister: But you are not like that, for you have been chosen by God himself—you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God's very own—all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9 (TLB)

Be _____: God saved you by his grace when you believed . . . it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

_____ for the time: Watch and be thoughtful about how you live, not unwisely but with wisdom. Then you will make the most of each season of your life because each day will bring evil. Realizing this, don't be foolish but be thoughtful and intentional about God's will! Ephesians 5:15-17 (JOT)

3. _____ the strength to follow God's purpose

_____ alive in Christ: It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. Ephesians 2:4-6 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step:

Where do you need Christ to minister to the brokenness of your life? What is stealing your identity as a child of the living God? Do you doubt that God truly loves you just as you are? Jesus says: *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life* (John 10:10 (NLT)). This rich and satisfying life begins with asking for God's help! Admit that you cannot save yourself and that you cannot overcome your broken life. Jesus's purpose is to share this life with you now and forever. Accept the greatest gift God could ever give you by asking Jesus into your heart and receiving his forgiveness. This week join a small group or join us in this study as an individual.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message; TLB: The Living Bible; NLT: The New Living Bible.