

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 2:5b-7

Made Alive and Seated With Christ

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**Union With Christ Eternally
Displays Rich Grace**

Ephesians 2:5b-7 (NASB)
 made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

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Sharing in Christ's Victory

Ephesians 2:5b-6 (NASB)
 And made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

- Made alive, raised and seated are verbs with a prefix that denotes "with"
- "Heavenly places" is the same term as Ephesians 1:3, 10 (high heavens)

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With Christ

- “Made alive together”
- “Raised together”
- “Seated together”
 - Each is an aorist active verb (God did this)
 - This describes the believer’s union with Christ
 - We do not create Christ’s victory over death, sin and evil spiritual powers but share in it by faith

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Grace Shown Through the Ages

Ephesians 2:7 (NET)
to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- As countless ages unfold, the glorious grace of God in Christ will be on display
- The term for “demonstrate” was used in the Greek translation of Exodus 9:16
- Pagan deities had temples with trophies

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Implications and Applications

- Our status in Christ is grounded by faith in what Christ did, not mystical experiences
- We must avoid false claims based on over-realized eschatology
- Our position in Christ means our sins are forgiven and we are no longer under the hostile powers of darkness

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Trust Christ Who Is Seated Above

Colossians 3:1 (NET)

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

- Christ reigns in the place of highest honor and authority
- Colossians 2:13 said that God made dead sinners alive with Christ, forgiving them
- We hope in Christ, seeking to live as those alive from the dead—seated with Him

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Paul Ironically Rebukes Elitists

1Corinthians 4:7-8 (NASB)

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? You are already filled, you have already become rich, **you have become kings without us**; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

- They claim higher status than Paul
- We must understand the use of irony here

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Things Not Seen

Hebrews 11:1, 3 (NASB)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. . . By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

- "Assurance" is *hupostasis* and here means "ground of confidence"
- What is "not seen" is God and His promises

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