

## ***WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP*** *(Ephesians 2:10)*

As we reflect on Ephesians 2:10, we will answer the question, "How should a Christian understand his self-image in relation to his experience of the saving power of Christ's gospel?" Put in another way, "How should I view myself now that I am in Christ?" A biblical self-image is "*seeing yourself as God sees you, no more, no less.*" In other words, a biblical self-image means having a realistic view of yourself from God's perspective. What God says in His Word defines you. How God sees you in Christ is who you are. Ephesians 2:10 gives us three affirmations of a Christian's value and worth according to God's Word. These affirmations are the building blocks of the biblical identity and dignity of every Christian.

**1. *We are God's \_\_\_\_\_ by virtue of creation.***

By saying that we are God's workmanship, Paul takes us back to the original idea of creation (Eph. 2:10). Every man and woman is created after the image of God, and therefore each one is of infinite value to God who is the Divine Creator (Gen. 2:7; Col. 1:16). The word for workmanship which Paul used also means handiwork, a work of art, a masterpiece. The essential idea is that every man and woman is a unique creation of God, His beautiful craftsmanship. We are the crowning glory of God's creation (Psalm 139:13-14; 8:3-5).

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**2. *We are God's \_\_\_\_\_ by virtue of redemption.***

When Paul said that we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus, he is drawing our attention to a much grander and a more glorious act of God's creation (Eph. 2:10). Paul calls this in 2 Corinthians 5:17 as the new creation. "*For anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.*" Every Christian is a new creation in Christ Jesus. The ultimate workmanship of God, His ultimate masterpiece, is a man and a woman who formerly was condemned because of sin and bound to suffer the eternal wrath of God, but by the grace of God, is now redeemed and saved, freed from the prison of guilt and sin, and is forgiven completely and accepted totally as a beloved son and daughter of the living God (Eph. 2:4-5; 5:25-27).

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**3. *We are God's \_\_\_\_\_ by virtue of our purpose.***

The grace of God through Jesus Christ is the cause or the ground of our salvation. Faith or trusting and resting in Christ alone is the channel by which we receive this grace of salvation. Good works are the consequence, the result or the fruit of this salvation that God has given us (Eph. 2:8-10). If we really are saved, this grace of God will result to a life of good works (Titus 2:14; 2 Cor. 9:8). In the language of 2 Timothy 2:21, we, as God's redeemed people, must be vessels for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to our Master, ready for every good work! These good works are prepared beforehand by God Himself that we should walk in them (Eph. 4:1,17; 5:1-2,8-11, 15-21; John 9:4; 17:4).

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