

## Ephesians Devotional Guide – Part 6

### Exercise #1

A Puritan prayer entitled *A Convert's First Prayer* wonderfully captures the truth of Ephesians 2:1-10. Meditate on it and make it your own:

*My Father, I could never have sought my happiness in Your love, unless You had first loved me. Your Spirit has encouraged me by grace to seek You, has made known to me Your reconciliation in Jesus, has taught me to believe it, has helped me to take You for my God and portion. May He grant me to grow in the knowledge and experience of Your love, and walk in it all the way to glory. Blessed forever by Your fatherly affection, which chose me to be one of Your children by faith in Jesus: I thank You for giving me the desire to live as such. In Jesus, my brother, I have my new birth, every restraining power, every renewing grace. It is by Your Spirit I call You Father, believe in You, love You; strengthen me inwardly for every purpose of my Christian life; let the Spirit continually reveal to me my interest in Christ, and open to me the riches of Your love in Him; may He abide in me that I may know my union with Jesus, and enter into constant fellowship with Him; by the Spirit may I daily live to You, rejoice in Your love, find it the same as to me as to Your Son, and become rooted and grounded in it as a house on a rock; I know but little – increase my knowledge of Your love in Jesus, keep me pressing forward for clearer discoveries of it so that I may find its eternal fullness; magnify Your love to me according to its greatness, and not according to my deserts..., and whatever increase You give, let it draw out [of me] greater love to You. (The Valley of Vision, p. 53)*

### Exercise #2

Review Ephesians 1:3-2:10 and highlight what is said about our new identity. Consider the implications of our new identity.

Meditate of the following statement from Frances of Assisi: *What I am before God, that I am.* What lies do you believe about yourself that need to be renounced?

Meditate of 2 Corinthians 5:16-17. How should the truth of our new identity influence our perspective of other believers?

### Exercise #3

Look ahead to next Sunday's sermon by reading and studying Ephesians 2:11-18. How did Jesus bring the Jews and Gentiles together? What implications does that have on your life and your relationships?