



Be More Human - Eph 2:1-10

Oct 20 - Dave Navarro

INTRO

What does it mean to be fully human? In this Sunday's teaching, we examined the story of humanity itself. Humans are built to be partners with God, and be deeply connected to God in a life-giving relationship. But all of us have turned away from that purpose, so we feel like something is *missing*. And that's where Jesus came in. ***Open with prayer¹, then read Eph 2:1-10 together as a group. Consider dividing it by paragraph. It's helpful to all use the same Bible translation. SLC preaches from the NLT, but Dave used the NRSV this week.***

SERMON RECAP

1. What does it mean to be human?
 - a. Reebok: "Be more human." This idea that there's something primal, something essential, that's *missing*.
 - b. Intro series.
 - c. Recap Ephesians 1.
 - d. Intro today's passage.
2. Sin (V1-3)
 - a. Forsaking Our Human Calling (Genesis 1-2) / Death / Wrath
3. Sum up
 - a. We human beings have chosen to be LESS HUMAN.
 - b. We've chosen to forsake our calling.
 - c. The result is spiritual death.
 - d. "BUT GOD IS SO RICH IN MERCY.."
4. Resurrection (V4-6)
5. Re-Creation (V10)

¹ Some groups prefer to begin with a longer time of sharing and prayer. This is a good instinct and ensures that prayer time doesn't get shortened by time constraints.

6. Faith (V8)
 - a. Not just mental assent, but allegiance.

BONUS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you're covering 2 sermons in 1 Life Group meeting, skip to the Core Discussion Questions to save time. Otherwise, start here.

1. What's your favourite sport, and why?
2. In the era of Hitler and Stalin, we struggle with the idea of a wrathful ruler. We've seen the ill effects that occur when wrath is wedded to power. Is there a good kind of wrath? (Remember Dave's analogy of "dad-wrath.")
3. Read Romans 10:9. This verse is often used to explain what saving faith is like. Consider the fact that the motto of the Roman Empire was "Caesar is Lord." With that in mind, is Romans 10:9 talking about a private, mental faith? Or a public, enacted faith?

CORE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve choose disobedience to God.
 - a. Read Genesis 2:4-7, 15. What was humanity's original calling?
 - b. With this in mind, why was humankind's rebellion so bad?
2. In Ephesians 2:1-3, there is a triad of things that lead us into sin, into being LESS human.
 - a. What are the three things that lead us into sin?²
 - b. For each three, how do these lead us into forsaking our calling to partner with God in bringing out the goodness in creation?
3. Paul states in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... not by works, so that no one can boast."
 - a. If the word "faith" were subtracted from the English language, what words do you think we would use to replace it? Why?
 - b. Often we define faith as merely a mental belief in certain ideas. Read Matthew 7:21-23 and James 2:14-20. Is there more to Christian faith?
 - c. What is the risk to Christianity as a whole if faith or belief is defined only as mental agreement with certain facts?
4. What is one area where you feel you've been placed to "garden" or participate in what God is doing? How might you invest more deeply this week?

² The way of the world, the ruler of the power of the air (the Devil), and the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature.



ACT & PRAY

1. As a group, share areas of praise and need. Write them down so you can be praying for them during the week.
2. Remind yourselves of your Adopt-a-Missionary, and any prayer requests you've seen from them.
3. Spend time praying, either all together, or in smaller groups. Feel free to experiment with silent prayer, written prayer, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Do you love babies and toddlers? Nursery volunteers are urgently needed. Please contact the office if you're willing. Criminal record check, interview, and safety training are required.
2. Don't forget to get your tickets to Christmas Tales, our dinner theatre event on Nov 30. See the Welcome Centre on Sunday!

