

Ephesians 2:1-10—Seated at the AAA Table

I. The Problem

- a. Tendency to compare and judge ourselves by standards of others in this world.
- b. We are trying to get seated at the wrong table.

II. The Text

- a. Who we previously were:
 - i. Dead in our transgressions—spiritually dead before knowing Jesus
 - ii. Following the path of the world and not God
- b. The Rescue
 - i. Living by our own nature, we were objects of wrath
 - ii. God made us alive? *Why?* By his mercy
 - iii. Notice our salvation is *entirely* God's work. Why does that matter? It leaves NO room for boasting and opens the door fully for confidence in who we are in Him!
- c. What Christ did
 - i. Saved us by His grace
 - ii. Made us alive with Christ
 - iii. ***Raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly places***
 1. Note this is past tense
- d. Note that last part is telling us who we are already:
 - i. We *ARE* seated at the greatest table with the greatest King; we do not have to fight for a seat at the table

III. Trying to sit with the wrong AAA Team

- a. Appearance— physical appearance or reputation
- b. Affluence—status with wealth, education, reputation, or background
- c. Achievement—*look at what I've accomplished, or I have failed to accomplish*
- d. We try to "sit" at this table with the elites and we are left stressed, obsessed with self, judgmental, jealous, disappointed, heartbroken, and even despairing.
- e. These can also be manifested in religious form

IV. Sitting with the right AAA Team

- a. Adore—How we focus our gaze; radiate the beauty of Christ rather than obsessing over our own appearance
- b. Access— What we seek to gain; access the riches of Christ and we don't need to seek to affluence in this world
- c. Abide—How we spend our time; getting to know God and grow rather than feeling the need for success

V. Why the core of the gospel matters in this— it frees us to change our focus off of ourselves and onto God and his mission

- a. We live this out by welcoming all to the AAA Table (c.f. *James 2:1-5*)