



IMPOSSIBLE

“you were dead in your transgressions and sins” (Eph 2:1)

Sin – it is not a _____ it is a _____
for everything outside of God’s _____, _____ & _____



IMPOSSIBLE Something out of nothing
Alive out of dead

God can make you alive in Christ

“God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.” (v4-5)

You cannot earn _____

What does God do?

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

What do I do?

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10



ENCOUNTER GROUPS

Spiritual Growth Small Groups at Emmanuel Reformed Church

Getting Started

Share a highlight from the past week.

What about the message?

Review the sermon together. What were the main points?
What stood out to you as important? What questions did it raise for you?

Think about the difference between a defined list, and a label.

If sin is “everything we do that misses the mark of God’s design, desire and plan”
what can you think of that might seem “good” that is actually sin?
How do we figure out what is sin or not? Is it important to identify every sin?

God’s standard is perfection – see **Leviticus 19:2, Matthew 5:48**

Yet as we heard last week, we are not – **Romans 3:23**

Consider ways we deceive ourselves - **Isaiah 5:20-21** – what does
this look like today in society and in our lives?

Reread **Ephesians 2:8-9** By Grace God does what we cannot – and there is
nothing to do. How does it make you feel to get something you didn’t earn?
Do you ever feel like you should be earning your salvation?

Going Deeper

In the early church there was a debate about how much the new Christians
needed to follow the Jewish laws. They wondered what still applied of the old
law. The debate can be found in Acts chapter 15. Peter’s last words in the
debate are important. Read **Acts 15:7-11** – How does grace end the argument?

Now read what they decide to tell the new believers who were coming from
pagan religions – **Acts 15:19-20**. If we are saved by grace through faith, why do
they still send some behavior rules to the new believers?

Read **Romans 6:1-2** – How does this guide our lives once we are saved
by grace? What do you think of the idea found in **1 John 3:9** in relation to the
definition of sin we started with?

How about you?

Do nothing – rest in God’s love shown in God’s grace!