



## The Mission

Ephesians 2:1-5,8,9,13-16: As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and **sins**,<sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world... gratifying the cravings of our **sinful nature** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>**made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God**—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast... <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were **far away have been brought near** by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has **made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... His purpose** was to create in himself **one new humanity out of the two**, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and in one body to **reconcile** both of them to God through the **cross**, by which he put to death their **hostility**..

2 Corinthians 5:17,18: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**...

Incurvatus in se

"Our nature, by the corruption of the first sin, [being] so deeply curved in on itself that it not only bends the best gifts of God towards itself and enjoys them, or rather even uses God himself in order to attain these gifts, but it also fails to realize that it so wickedly, curvedly, and viciously seeks all things, even God, for its own sake." Martin Luther