

Getting a Jump on 2014

Week Two Implications of My Past

"My ability to extend the grace of the gospel to others directly corresponds to my awareness and acceptance of who I was when God extended the grace of the gospel to me."

Who Were You?

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Romans 1:15-17

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another."

- I. **Are you aware of who you were?**
 - a. What was your essential nature?

- b. How did your nature manifest itself?

II. Have you accepted who you were?

- a. Are you ashamed of your former life?

Romans 6:21

- b. Can you be appropriately open with others about your former life?

III. How should this awareness and acceptance change your treatment of others?

- a. What does grace look like on the street?

In the halls of the church?

- b. What does it reveal about me when I withhold grace from others?

How has this acceptance moved your affection for God?