

I. Once Dead - Ephesians 2:1-3

1. Christianity is not remodeling, but a new construction (**verses 1-2**)
 - Rea -the best analogy is the Bible one - death and life (like in a body)
 - spiritual deadness
 - Rea -like the Walking Dead
 - the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - Rea -this would be a later death - the payoff (that is this analogy) - just like the payoff for us from God is life (gift)
 - God resurrects the dead
 - Rea -see Spiritual resurrection at Romans 6:1ff
2. There is now following a description of the walk of the dead
 - A. Walked according to the ways of the world
 - B. Walked according to the world's desires
 - C. Were walking in death
 - D. Walked according to the lead of the ruler of this world
 - Rea -Satan
 - Rea -do you think the lost know they are following Satan?
 - here it says he works in those who are disobedient
- Rea 3. Discuss how the ways of the world are different from the ways of God
 - this understanding is crucial if you want people to change their lifestyles
 - for me this idea has to do with whatever is "in style" - for example, if smoking MJ is in style, then that is what we do.
4. Cravings of the flesh (**verse 3**)
 - living under the spell of fleshly desires
 - Rea -desires such as ...the desire for sexual pleasure, the desire for control, the desire for material things, the desire for ego/ selfish fulfillment
5. That made us "deserving of wrath" - judgment
 - by nature
 - not just a moral lapse
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Don't miss that phrase "at that time" (verse 3)
 - they do not live this way, but they used to
 2. If we are dead - we need God to give us a resurrection - Jesus is the way, the truth, and the *life*
 3. Discuss physically alive, and spiritually dead

II. Now Alive - Ephesians 2:4-7

1. Outside of Christ
 - lifeless, hopeless and condemned
2. "But" within Christ (**verses 4-5**)
 - A. God's mercy makes the difference
 - B. While we were dead in our sins
 - C. God makes a way
 - Christ died for us while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8)

3. By grace - so it is a miracle
 - grace is an undeserved gift
 - we are now alive because of what He has done
4. First, made alive
 - Second, raised us up (**verse 6**)
 - how? Together with Jesus
 - Third, seated us with Him (Jesus) in heavenly places/ realms
 - seated in His authority

Rea -it is a bit of jump to say that we are given His authority - to be seated in heavenly places does not necessarily mean we has His authority
5. Why does God do this? - what is His motive
 - A. To demonstrate His rich grace (**verse 7**)
 - B. It is “expressed in” His grace

Rea C. Whatever you have, or whoever you are ...it will out - it will be expressed

God is good, and it is expressed by His grace, and His gifts/ blessings

Rea D. When? - in the coming ages

Ideas and Questions:

 1. Discuss God’s motive of love - see John 3:16
 2. Made alive - resurrected - now - so it has to be spiritual (as opposed to physical) resurrection
 - spiritually raised now, physically raised later
 3. Let there be life! - as in creation
 - Jesus said I am the life (John 14:6)
 4. In the scientific realm light precedes life, - so in the spiritual realm - we receive the light of the gospel, then the life of the gospel

III. Through Grace Alone - Ephesians 2:8-10

1. By grace we are saved (**verses 8-9**) - that is how it happened
 - received through faith
 - it is the gift of God

Rea -what do you do with a gift? - simply receive it - as many as “received” Him, to them gave He the right to become the sons of God (John 1:12)
- Rea 2. His grace meets with our faith
 - His grace is “mixed” with our faith - Hebrews 4:2
 - He offers first (before we do anything - while we are still sinners)
 - We receive by faith
3. Lets be clear - it is not our works (**verse 9**)
 - you have not earned it therefore you cannot “boast”
 - saved by faith apart from keeping the law (Rom. 3:28)
 - see also Rom. 4:1-4 and Titus 3:5
4. We are His workmanship created in Christ

Rea -the realm of our creation

Rea -check out the KJV

 - saved by grace
 - through faith
 - unto good works (**verse 10**) - in other words to do good works - this is the

consistent translation of “works” - by our good works He is glorified - in the NIV “to do good works”

Rea 5. So He created a new work (you and I)

-to do good works - the end of His creation - a changed life - once dead, now alive and producing fruit

-the works do not save us but they testify that we are saved! -there is something quite wrong in a believer’s life who is not producing good fruit, just as there is something wrong in a plant if it has no fruit

-God prepared in advance that this should be our lifestyle (verse 10)

6. Delivered from the power of sin (death)

Unto a lifestyle of life (fruit)

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. You cannot earn your way to heaven

-He does not weigh your good works and if you have been “good enough” you get in

2. Paul relates (here) a wonderful balance of faith and works

3. Much fruit is missing in many, many believers lives... what do you think is wrong?

4. We have a fear of being labeled “legalistic” if we “require” anything from church members

-while it is not my place to judge

-I’d have to be blind not to notice that many (even most) believers show little evidence of being saved

Greg Pouncey - SS lesson for 9-15-19