

**Ephesians**  
*More than a Makeover*  
**How to Really Live**  
**Ephesians 2:1-10**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 20, 2024*

**I. Stop Fooling Yourself About What's Really Going On And Take A Closer Look At Your Life**

**Ephesians 2:2** "...in which you once walked, following the course of this world..."

**A. When You Live Life Without God You'll Be Affirmed By The Crowd**

You may think it's right, it's popular, there's a crowd, that you'll always have people around you, that you'll never be alone, but it doesn't mean you're right and it doesn't mean it's working out.

**Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

Don't look at the path that has the most people, the biggest crowd, the loudest music, and the most popular podcast expert!

**Proverbs 14:12** "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

**B. When You Live Life Without God You Get No Resistance From The Spiritual Forces Of Darkness**

**Ephesians 2:2** "...following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience..."

If you're a slave to sin and those forces of darkness, you'll get no resistance, but you are not free! Don't say you can stop anytime you want, because you can't!

**C. When You Live Life Without God You Get No Resistance From Your Flesh**

**Ephesians 2:3** "...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind..."

Our world today is on steroids with what **Carl Trueman** calls "expressive individualism." The idea is that you are what you feel so don't let anyone stop you or tell you otherwise.

**Galatians 5:19-21** contains a list of the sins of the flesh and it's a whole lot more than just sexual sin.

**Galatians 5:19-21 (The Message)** "It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on..."

The desires of the flesh lie to us and the pleasures of sin are overrated, mislabeled, and come with a hidden price tag! These pleasures promise freedom, but they bring slavery and bondage. Sinful pleasures give us the illusion of control, but they end up ruling us and ruining us.

"I grew careless of the lives of others. I took pleasure where it pleased me, and passed on. I forgot that every little action of the common day makes or unmakes character, and that therefore what one has done in the secret chamber, one has some day to cry aloud from the house-top. I ceased to be lord over myself. I was no longer the captain of my soul, and did not know it. I allowed pleasure to dominate me. I ended in horrible disgrace."

~ Oscar Wilde (William Barclay, *The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians*)

Sin takes you farther than you wanted to go, keeps you longer than you wanted to stay, and makes you pay more than you wanted to pay.

## II. Stop Listening To The World And Hear What God Has To Say About You

**Ephesians 2:1** "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins..."

Make sure you understand what the Bible's teaching here: that it's possible for a man or woman to demonstrate the most vigorous physical and mental life, while at the same time being spiritually dead.

**Ephesians 2:3** "... and were by nature children of wrath..."

Every one of us knows there's a God and we're born under the wrath of that God because we refuse acknowledge that we know it!

Read **Romans 1:18-20, 28**. We're not born children of God. We're born enemies under the wrath of God because of our willful rebellion against God in our lives.

## III. Stop Ignoring God And Look At What He's Ready To Do!

People are searching for words that can somehow bring order to the chaos of life, words that can make sense of the brokenness, and they're found in **v. 4** – "But God..." And **vv. 4 - 7** run on, piling up phrase after phrase of what God stands ready to do for any and every sinner that'll turn to Him.

### A. Look At Who God Is

**Ephesians 2:4** "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us..."

God gives us mercy and not just a little bit of it. He's rich in mercy!

He's also full of radically different love!

### B. Look At What He Can Do – Starting today, right now!

- **v. 5** - He'll breathe new life into you – "*made us alive together with Christ*"
- **v. 6** - He'll make you part of His family and make you co-heirs with Christ – "*raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*"

- **v. 10** - He'll give you a life-long purpose – *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...”*

#### **IV. Stop Trying To Achieve And Be Willing To Receive What Only God Can Do**

“Sometimes I believe in God, sometimes I don't. I think it's 50-50 maybe. But ever since I've had cancer, I've been thinking about it more. And I find myself believing a bit more. Maybe it's 'cause I want to believe in an afterlife. That when you die, it doesn't just all disappear... You're born alone, you're gonna die alone. And does anything else really matter?”

~ Walter Issacson, *Steve Jobs*

We were created in the image of God and need more than money, achievement, or fame could ever give us in this life.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”