

EPHESIANS

The Walking Dead

Ephesians 2:1-3

THE WALKING DEAD

FACEBOOK.COM/THEWALKINGDEADGIRLS - PHOTO - ART STREIBER

SEASON 4



“And you...”

EPHESIANS

- Paul is tying these thoughts to the major theme with which he ended Chapter 1:

You are one of those chosen few who have experienced the mighty power of God to believe in faith on the Lord Jesus Christ and His Resurrection.

And...

EPHESIANS

Paul Wants To Remind
Us:

Who We Were In Order
To Understand Who God
Is And What He Has
Done



“And you were
dead in your
trespasses and
sins”

Quick Word Study

EPHESIANS

“Dead”

νεκρός (*nekros*)

The word is used 132 times in the New Testament, and it is translated 132 times as...

“dead”

6 But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.

Strong Language...

EPHESIANS

And Paul must be strong because
he knows our tendency to minimize
our sin and maximize our
“goodness.”

If only the American church felt
the same way...

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

ἁμαρτία (*hamartia*)

“sin”







R.C. Sproul,
The Holiness of God

“Every sin is an act of cosmic treason, a futile attempt to dethrone God in His sovereign authority...It is an act of supreme ingratitude toward the One to whom we owe everything, to the One who has given us life itself.”

“dead in your...sins”

EPHESIANS

- Some have taken it to mean that without Christ we live in a state of sin which in the life to come produces the death of the soul.
- But Paul is not talking about the life to come; he is talking about this present life.
- What effect does sin have on us?

Sin is a Defiler

EPHESIANS

- No one is precisely the same after sinning.
- Studies tell us that we never “forget” anything; it may not be in our conscious memory, but everything we ever did or saw or heard is buried in our subconscious memories.
- The result is that sin leaves a permanent infection in us.





Origen

(184-253 A.D.)

“In the wounds of the body, after they have been cured, there sometimes remains the mark of the wound itself...It is hardly ever so cured that no trace of the received wound is seen to remain...mark how the soul which has received the wound of sin, even if it be cured, has the scar of sin remaining in the place of the wound, which, although cured, bears still the indication of the old wound in the traces itself of the scar.”

Sin Kills...

EPHESIANS

- **Innocence:** Sin may be forgiven, but its effects remain.
- **Ideals:** People begin to do without a qualm the thing which once they regarded with horror.
- **Will:** It takes such a hold that people cannot break free.



Ephesians 2:1-2a

EPHESIANS

1 And you were dead in your
trespasses and sins, 2 in which
you formerly walked
according to the course of
this world

Life Without Christ

EPHESIANS

1. Defined by the World

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The “Worldly” Life

EPHESIANS

- It is life lived on the world's standards and with the world's values.
- **For example:**
 - Forgiveness
 - Service
 - Death to Self

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb on the horizon, with its reflection shimmering on the water's surface. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds illuminated from below by the sun, creating a range of orange and yellow hues. In the background, dark silhouettes of mountains or hills are visible against the bright sky. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

A peaceful heart is a reward alone for being a
good person.

www.iqquotes.com

Ephesians 2:1-2b

EPHESIANS

1 And you were dead in your
trespasses and sins, 2 in which you
formerly walked according to the
course of this world, according
to the prince of the power
of the air

Life Without Christ

EPHESIANS

1. Defined by the World
2. Dictated by Satan

Ephesians 6:12

EPHESIANS

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

“the prince of the
power of the air”

EPHESIANS

- Satan commands innumerable hosts in the unseen world and thus creates a spirit of the age, in which he knits just enough good with evil to achieve his purposes.
- Satan dominates and energizes the spiritually dead.

Cultural Context:

EPHESIANS

- We are dealing with something which was very real in the days of Paul but which is not so real to us.
- The ancient world had a strong belief in demons; they believed that the air was so crowded with these demons that there was not room to insert a pinpoint between them.
- Pythagoras said: “The whole air is full of Spirits.”
- Philo said: “There are spirits flying everywhere through the air...The air is the house of the disembodied spirits.”

THE
SCREWTAPE
LETTERS

by
C.S. Lewis



1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



Revelation 5:1-5

EPHESIANS

1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. **2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” **3** And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. **4** Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; **5** and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”

Ephesians 2:1-2c

EPHESIANS

1 And you were dead in your
trespasses and sins, 2 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.

Life Without Christ

EPHESIANS

1. Defined by the World
2. Dictated by Satan
3. Dedicated to Disobedience

For the Jew First...

EPHESIANS

Paul is showing that even the Jews, who boasted of their birth from Abraham, were by natural birth equally children of wrath as the Gentiles, whom the Jews despised on account of their birth from idolaters.

- **Romans 3:9 –**

“What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin”

Who Are

EPHESIANS

The “Sons of Disobedience?”



Is This Who Paul is Referring To?

The Biblical Truth:

EPHESIANS

Those who live Christless
lives pursue their own way,
even when they know what
God's way is.

And they are *all* “sons of
disobedience.”

And the Truth is...

EPHESIANS

We Struggle Mightily
with This Truth.

Why?

Ephesians 2:1-3a

EPHESIANS

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 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. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind

Life Without Christ

EPHESIANS

1. Defined by the World
2. Dictated by Satan
3. Dedicated to Disobedience
4. Devoted to the Flesh

“lusts of our flesh”

EPHESIANS

ἐπιθυμία (*epithumia*)

- Remember James 1:14-15 –

“But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own **lust**. Then when **lust** has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Galatians 5:19-21

EPHESIANS

19 Now **the deeds of the flesh** are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, **21** envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Let No One Think... EPHESIANS

- That, through escaping the grosser sins of the body, the sins of the flesh have been avoided.
- The flesh is anything in us which gives sin its chance; it is human nature without God.
- And the flesh is a horrible master, and to be at the mercy of desire is to be a slave.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark blazer, is shown from the chest up. She is looking upwards and to her left with a pleading or desperate expression on her face. Her mouth is slightly open as if she is about to speak or has just finished a sentence. She is holding a white smartphone in her hands, which are visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window showing a cityscape with buildings.

I'M SO HUNGRY

Ephesians 2:1-3a

EPHESIANS

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 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. 3 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.

Life Without Christ

EPHESIANS

1. Defined by the World
2. Dictated by Satan
3. Dedicated to Disobedience
4. Devoted to the Flesh
5. Deserving of Wrath

“by nature”

EPHESIANS

- In the Greek, “Nature” implies that which has grown in us as the peculiarity of our being, growing with our growth, and strengthening with our strength, as distinguished from that which has been wrought on us by mere external influences: what is inherent, not acquired.
- Our “nature” is incidental proof of the doctrine of original sin.





In Psalm 51:5...

EPHESIANS

- David said it this way:

“Behold, I was brought
forth in iniquity, And in
sin my mother
conceived me.”

“children of wrath”

EPHESIANS

- A Hebraistic expression, such as:
- John 17:12 – “son of perdition”
- 1 Peter 1:14 – “children of obedience”
- 2 Peter 2:14 – “children of cursing”

The Greek here is υἱός (*huios*), which is better translated as “sons.”

Why is that important?



Turn to John 8:37-47

36 “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God

So Important for Us!

EPHESIANS

you *were* dead

you *formerly* walked

we too all *formerly* lived...indulging

[we] *were* by nature children of wrath

even as the rest.

If I Asked You:

EPHESIANS

Why Do You Sin?

What Would You
Say?

After All...

EPHESIANS

Doesn't Romans 6 tell us:

- v. 6: “our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin”
- v. 11: “consider yourselves to be dead to sin”
- v. 14: “sin shall not be master over you”
- v. 18: “having been freed from sin”

The Question:

EPHESIANS

Why Do We Still
Struggle So Much
With Our Sin?

The Answer is Simple: EPHESIANS

Because
We Love
It.

EPHESIANS