

**Ephesians Part 4:**  
**Dead in Sin, Alive in Christ**  
*Ephesians 2:1-7*



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*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked,  
following the course of this world,  
following the prince of the power of the air,  
the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—  
<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,  
carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,  
and were by nature children of wrath,  
like the rest of mankind.*

<sup>4</sup> *But God,  
being rich in mercy,  
because of the great love with which he loved us,  
<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses,  
made us alive together with Christ  
-- by grace you have been saved—*

<sup>6</sup> *and raised us up with him  
and seated us with him  
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his  
grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

*Ephesians 2:1-7*

**Introduction: Dead in Sin, Alive in Christ**

**Ephesians 1** is about:

- God's blessings for you in Christ
- God's cosmic purpose to unite everything in Christ
- God's desire for you to know and receive God's blessings in Christ

**Ephesians 2** is about:

- Your spiritual need and God's saving grace through Christ

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following the prince of the power of the air,  
the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—  
<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,  
carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,  
and were by nature children of wrath,  
like the rest of mankind.*

*Ephesians 2:1-3*

**1. You were Dead in your Sins (1-3)**

You were not simply dying or wounded, but spiritually dead in sin

**Sin's influence** on you comes from three directions:

a. **Your Environment**

- *the course of this world*
- The world in which you live influences you to sin

b. **Satan**

- *the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience*
- Satan is real, spiritual being who tempts you to sin

c. **The Passions of our Flesh** (your sinful nature)

- *...in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath*
- Your nature: You were born with sinful desires that lead you to sin – Note that “flesh” refers metaphorically to your sinful nature, not to your physical body

Paul wrote to the Galatians about the desires of the flesh, and lists them in 5:19-21 below:

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.<sup>17</sup>  
For the **desires of the flesh** are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit  
are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from  
doing the things you want to do.<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not  
under the law.<sup>19</sup> Now the **works of the flesh are evident**: sexual immorality,  
impurity, sensuality,<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger,  
rivalries, dissensions, divisions,<sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like  
these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will  
not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Galatians 5:16-21*

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*But God,*

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because of the great love with which he loved us,  
<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses,*

*made us alive together with Christ*

*-- by grace you have been saved—*

*<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him  
and seated us with him*

*in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

*<sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his  
grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

*Ephesians 2:4-7*

**2. But God...did three powerful things for you (4-6)**

a. God *made us alive together with Christ (5)*

- God brought you back to life spiritually through the resurrection of Jesus on the cross

b. God *raised us up with him (6)*

- God exalted you with Christ to heaven

c. God *seated us with him (7)*

- God seated you with Christ - a seat of honour and authority

**3. Why did God do all of this for You? (4-7)**

a. God is *rich in mercy*

- See Exodus 34:6-8 – mercy is central to God's character

b. God *loved us* with a *great love*

- despite you being dead in your trespasses

c. God possesses immeasurable grace – *by grace you have been saved*

- We will focus more on God's grace next week

d. God's eternal purpose for our salvation is:

- *to display for all eternity the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus*

**God gave you new life in Christ, exalted you with Christ, and seats you with Christ in the heavenly places!**

**He did all this for you because of his mercy, love and grace, which will be displayed through you for all eternity.**

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## Your Response

1. Meditate on the three ways sin influences you (1a,b,c) Then meditate on God's mercy, love, and grace that prompted him to save you (3a,b,c,d)!
2. Read Ephesians in your Bible. Use an accurate, readable translation such as the English Standard Version or the New Living Translation.
3. Believe in Jesus for forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Him.

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3:23-24*

*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

## Ephesians Series: God's Purposes for You in Christ

January 8	Part 1: Introduction to Ephesians
January 15	Part 2: God's Blessings to You in Christ
January 22	Part 3: A Prayer for Spiritual Knowledge
<b>January 29</b>	<b>Part 4: Dead in Sin, Alive in Christ</b>
February 5	Part 5: God's Amazing Grace
February 12	Part 6: The Mystery of the Gospel

## Questions for Reflection

1. What are the three ways that sin influences you (1 a,b,c)? Which are you most aware of in your life? Which are you least aware of?
2. How has God displayed his mercy and love for you? (3 ways, point 2 in today's message)
3. How does God's generosity to you make you feel? How might it change how you live?
4. Have you responded to the gospel message in faith and repentance, trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and eternal life? Why not do so today?  
**2 Cor. 6:2b** *now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

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