

Ephesians 2:1-22

Dead in Sin or Alive in Christ

Everyone besides Jesus has sinned. Sin is doing anything that God tells us not to do.

God tells us not to do certain things because it will be bad for us. If we lie, cheat, steal, murder, rape, worship false gods, or other sins, it will cause us heart ache and pain. God does not want us in pain, so He tells us not to do those things.

Sin causes physical death and spiritual death (separated from God for eternity).

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God knew we would sin and had a plan to save us from our sin. That plan was Jesus!

Romans 10:9-13 *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. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Vs 1-10 We are built to give glory to God and make disciples of Christ.

When we worship anything other than the one true living God, it is false worship. We are worshipping the created instead of the Creator.

We were dead in sin. We have sinful nature; we all sin and the wages of sin is death.

Before we know Christ, we are free to worship and serve anything. What benefit did that get you? We all did things that we are now ashamed of.

God knew we would sin and He knew we would worship the things of this world. He loved us so much, that He provided a way for us to be forgiven of our sin. That is having faith in Jesus (His death burial and resurrection), believing that He died and paid the punishment of our sins, and asking Him to be Lord of our life.

Jesus paid the price for our sins, and we can either be accountable for our sins or we can trust in Jesus and He will pay the price for our sins. God is just in both cases.

Faith in Christ not only saves us, but the Spirit of God comes and resides in us when we repent and believe and God helps us. God also gives us a church family, His word, and eternity in heaven with Him.

God shows us mercy through Christ and then blesses us when we have faith in Him. By grace you have been saved. God gives us unmerited favor in Jesus. We just believe.

We are saved by faith. A mark of our trust in Jesus and His Lordship is that God will help us do good works for Him and for others.

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

Vs 11-22 Gods people were the Jews in the Old Testament. When Christ died and was resurrected God's people became all tribes, tongues, nations, and people. God creates all cultures uniquely and heaven will be made up of all ethnicities. There is no room for racism in God's church and in God's family.

It is not uncommon for people to be drawn toward people like themselves. We can all struggle with being ethnocentric. Faith in Jesus brought Jews and Gentiles together as one family. A church is united in Christ even though we might have differences.

We have peace in Christ. We have peace from our sin. We have peace with God. We can have peace with each other.

We are not saved by our good works. We are saved by our faith. When we are saved, God changes our hearts helping us love Him more and love others more.

When we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and ask Him to take control of our life, He brings us the family of God. This is called the church. And..... it is all of the members of God's church that will be unified for eternity in heaven.

The church is all built on Jesus.

1. Sin brings physical death and spiritual death. We were dead before Jesus!
2. We used to worship other things (false gods, money, self) but we are to worship the Creator, not the created.
3. God knew we would sin and worship false gods so He provided a way for us to be saved by grace. Jesus died to pay the punishment of our sins so we could be saved. All we have to do is believe in Jesus, ask forgiveness, and ask Jesus to take control of our lives.
4. When we ask Jesus to take control of our lives, He helps us now and we will go to heaven when we die.
5. Through faith in Christ, we can have peace with God and peace with others.
6. God gives us a community to surround ourselves with in life called the church. The church's goal is to love God, love others, tell people about God, and serve God and others.