

Dead Men Walking Ephesians 2:1-7

We were dead, all of us, completely dead

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

- **The spiritually dead are under the sway of the WORLD**
"...in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world..." Ephesians 2:2
- **The spiritually dead are under the sway of the DEVIL**
"...according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience..." Ephesians 2:2
 - *"Now judgment is upon this world; now **the ruler of this world** will be cast out." John 12:31*
 - *"But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by **the ruler of the demons**." Matthew 9:34*
 - *"...the **god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Corinthians 4:4*
- **The spiritually dead are under the sway of the FLESH**
"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." Ephesians 2:3
 - *"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**." John 3:36*

*** Discussion:** Where have you seen examples, either in your own life, or in culture in general, of the three basic views of human nature: man is well, man is sick and man is dead?

We have been made alive, with Christ, forever

*"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ**." Ephesians 2:4*

- **With new life comes RESURRECTION**
*"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..." Ephesians 2:4-5*
- **With new life comes ASCENSION**
"...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..." Ephesians 2:6
- **With new life comes RICHES**
"...so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:7

Do we believe in the resurrection?

"...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:9-13

Digging Deeper:

We need to recognize the barriers that Satan and our fleshly desires create which undermines our spiritual life and growth. Below are some specific barriers created by Satan and our sinful desires.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Which of these do you recognize as barriers to your life?

- **Immorality** - I Corinthians 7:5
- **Anger** - Ephesians 4:26-27
"Be angry and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity"
- **Lies, Deceit** - Acts 5:3
"But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?'"
- **Failure to forgive another:** II Corinthians 2:11
"But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."
- **Deny, distort to disobey God's truth** - Genesis 3:1, II Corinthians 4:4
"Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"
"In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
- **Do you have areas of your life that need to change? Are there areas of sin or satanic temptation? Do you have a friend who needs to salvation from sin?** Reflect honestly about these questions. You can no more change your friend who is "dead in sin" than you could go to a cemetery to give life to a corpse. **It takes a miracle from God.**

- **Miracle #1** in Ephesians 2:4, is that He loves all those all that are "dead" in their sin. Do you love those living in all kinds of sin? The first act of God is love toward sinners and that is where we should begin as well.

Read the following passages to reinforce this love and its impact on others. Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 31:3, 31-34; Hosea 11:8; Micah 7:18-19; John 3:16; I John 4:8-21, Romans 5:8. According to Romans 2:4, what draws us to repentance?

Who do you need to show this same love to this week? In what ways will you show love?

- **Miracle #2.** God raises you up to a new life where the improvements He makes in your life display His grace to care for you. You are then ready to be seated with Christ in heaven.

Read Colossians 3:1-4. If you are seated with Christ, what should your mind be focused on?

Discuss how important God's Word is to help you keep that focus.

- **What do the following verses teach you about God's Word and keeping your mind on Jesus?**
 - I Timothy 3:16, 17; Hebrews 12:1, 2

Next Steps:

1. **Calvary Goes to Dinner: Life is better together, especially when gathered together for a meal.** People from your church family are opening up their homes across Orange County for a special night to experience community. Come share a meal, meet someone new from your church community, and experience life together around the table. Sign up to host a meal, or to attend a meal, at calvarylife.org/dinner
2. **Attend the "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage"** conference here at Calvary Church. We believe God can resurrect a dead marriage. Join us Friday night (7-10pm) and Saturday morning (9am-12pm), October 23-24. Purchase tickets in the bookstore today or at calvarylife.org/marriage
3. **Make plans to invite friends to Light the Night.** This is a perfect opportunity to invite friends to our church campus and experience fun with their families and know that Jesus is the Light of the world. Learn more at calvarylife.org/ltn



CONNECT.GROW.REACH
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800
web | calvarylife.org