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**SERMON NOTES February 20, 2022**

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

**Ephesians 2:1-7**  
**From Death to Life**  
**Pastor Mike**

- I. Apart from Christ, we \_\_\_\_\_...
  - a. Spiritually \_\_\_\_\_; unable to respond to \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by the influence of...
    - 1. Our world's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2. Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ of truth
    - 3. The desires of our \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Seeing how distorting the \_\_\_\_\_ leads to distorted \_\_\_\_\_
- III. Our essential problem is \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. Our great \_\_\_\_\_ and only \_\_\_\_\_ is...
  - a. God's gracious \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. New \_\_\_\_\_ and a new \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Seeing the truth of what we \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Seeing the truth of what we \_\_\_\_\_

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In the many contemporary American churches, it has become unpopular and 'politically incorrect' to say things like the words found in Ephesians 2:1-3; that we are all naturally spiritually dead, slaves to sin, and by nature objects of Gods' wrath.
  - a. Have you seen this movement away from these 'unpleasant truths' in contemporary churches? Is so, what do you think is driving it?
  - b. How would you respond to someone who argued that using such strong language is offensive and would offend and drive away any unbelieving visitors?
  - c. If a church chooses to avoid this kind of possibly offensive language, what are possible unintended negative consequences of this in the church's witness and outreach to unbelievers? Or to the growth of the believers in the church?
  
2. In Ephesians 2:1, Paul teaches that apart from Christ, we were "*dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.*"
  - a. What does he mean that we were dead? How were we dead?
  - b. Paul continues in verse 5 that God has "*made us alive together with Christ.*" What does this mean? How are we made alive?
  
3. It is common for Christians to see our struggle with sin as primarily a problem of wrong actions – the sin we do. However, Paul teaches that our primary problem is our nature; not that we do sinful things, but that our nature is sinful- and our actions reveal our nature.
  - a. How important is this issue? How will our struggle with sin differ if we see it primarily as an issue of our actions as opposed to if we see it as a problem of our nature?
  - b. Is it more difficult to try and deal with our sinful actions or to try and deal with our sinful nature? What are some reasons for your answer?
  
4. In his message, Pastor Mike explained how Satan distorts God's truth, and then the world raises us in that distortion, so that we naturally desire things that are harmful for us. He used the example of how people are raised in different cultures desire foods that we might consider disgusting. In the same way, Satan distorts God's truth about what is good, our culture raises us in that value system, so that we naturally desire and what God abhors.
  - a. Can you think of examples of how you have seen this play out in our contemporary culture?
  - b. It is easy to see where others have been influenced by a lie, but hard to see in our own lives. Can you think of any possible area in your own life where this is, or even may be true?
  
5. In his graphic description of our natural condition apart from Christ (Eph 2:1-3), Paul targets this teaching not toward unbelievers, but believers, suggesting that such an understanding is essential to our spiritual growth and health.
  - a. How is a greater awareness of our brokenness apart from Christ essential to a Christian's spiritual health and growth?
  - b. Pastor Mike said that we will only understand and appreciate our high position in Christ to the degree that we first understand our brokenness apart from Christ? Do you agree with this? Why or why not?