

God's work in and through us. Eph. 2:1-10

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday May 1st AM

God reveals that (spiritually) there are three basic “types” of people which he describes as either: 1. “Natural” (1 Cor. 2:14) 2. “Spiritual” (1 Cor 2:15) 3. Carnal. 1 Cor 3:1-3) Ephesians was written to reveal the incredible privileges we have “in Christ” (Eph. 3:17-21) And the amazing price Christ paid to make us part of his plan. (Church) Eph. 5:25-27 Eph. Chapter 2 focusing on what/who we are (or are becoming) in Christ.

1. Our Problem (What we were) Vs 1-3 In our “natural condition” we were:

- A. Dead *“in trespasses and sins”* Vs 1
- B. Disobedient Vs 2 *“according to the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:”*
- C. Depraved Vs 3 *“in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind”*
- D. Doomed. Vs 3 *“and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”* Jn 8:44

2. God's Provision (What He did/does for us!) ([Eph. 2:4-9](#))

- A. God Loves Us! Vs 4 *“for his great love (agape) wherewith he loved us”*
 - 1) Love is part of the very essence (attributes) of God. 1 Jn 4:8 *“God is Love”*
 - 2) Genuine Love is demonstrative. Ro. 5:8
Agape love is not conditioned on our “goodness”, but on His Grace!
- B. God Quickened us. Vs 5 *“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, Sy-zō-o-poi-e’ō from syn: union with and zōopoieō: revitalize*
 - 1) This was based on His Word in conjunction with His Spirit. (Heb. 4:12) *“The word of God is quick (zaō: life) and powerful (energēs’: active energy) See also Jn 5:24 and 6:63*
 - 2) The three resurrections Jesus did in the gospels involved His Word and His Spirit.
- C. God Exalts us ([v. 6](#)). He didn't resurrect us and leave us in the graveyard of life!
“raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”
 - 1) While our physical “position” in on earth, our real “Spiritual” position is in Christ.
(Jn 15 & 1 Jn 1:28-3:3) Like Lazarus, he raises us to enjoy fellowship with him. Jn 12:1,2
- D. God Keeps us ([vv. 7](#)). *“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*
 - 1) This reveals that God's long range goal is that the church might be a “trophy” (Testimony) of his Grace! ([Eph. 1:6](#), [12](#), [14](#)).
 - 2) If God has an eternal purpose for us to fulfill, He will keep us for all eternity. Jude 1:24

3. Our Purpose (What we are!) Vs 10 *“For we are his workmanship, . . .”*

poi'ēma: product, a weaving, masterpiece! From poieō: to do, make, commit
(This is where the word “Poem” comes from!)

- A. Salvation isn't the “End” but rather the beginning of God's great work in us!
 - 1) His Holy Spirit makes us “a new creature” working in us so He can work through us!
2 Cor. 5:17-20 *“a new creature. . . now then we are ambassadors. . . be reconciled to God”*
 - 2) When Jesus called Lazarus from the grave (Jn 11:43) he said *“Loose him, and let him go.”*
 - a) Paul has this concept in mind in Ephesians 4:22-24 and Col. 3:1-13

B. This is a process that takes time and effort. (2 Pt 3:18; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Is. 61:1-3)

- 1) It begins with the “Seed” of the gospel in our hearts. (1 Pt 1:23; 2 Cor 4:6; Ro. 10:10)
- 2) This seed needs to take root (Eph. 3:17; Col. 2:7)
- 3) This new “creation” begins to become evident (visible) through branches/leaves (Jn 15:2)
- 4) This is eventually evident through the Fruit we bear! (Jn 15:9-16)

C. God is Committed (Poieo) to this process! See Phil. 1:6 and 2:13

- 1) He gives us Spiritual gifts to Motivate/Empower us.
(1 Cor 12; Ro. 12:6; Eph. 4:8; Heb. 2:4; 1 Peter 4:10) “
- 2) God uses key people to Mentor/Equip us. Eph. 4:8-16; Col 1:25-29
- 3) He uses “all things” to Mold/Enable us to become “Christians”. Ro. 8:28,29
“*We are his workmanship, created* (ktiz’ō: fabricated, formed) *in Christ Jesus...*”
 - a) God doesn’t waste anything! (Ro. 5:3-5; James 1:2-5)
 - b) Examples of this abound! (Moses, Joseph, David, Daniel, Peter, Paul...)

D. God Works in us so He can work through Us (Eph. 2:10b) “we are His ...

Created in Christ Jesus unto good (agathos’: beneficial) *works* (ergon: toil, effort, deed)
which God hath before ordained (proetomaz’ō: set up in advance {See Jer 29:11, Heb. 12:1,2})
that we should walk in them. “ (peripate’ō: deport oneself, be occupied with)

- 1) We’re not “Saved by” good works (Eph. 2:9) but we’re saved by a faith “that works”!
James 2:14-26; 2 Cor. 9:8; Col. 1:10; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Titus 2:14
- 2) Good works are to a believer:
 - a) What light is to a lamp or candle. (Mt. 5:14-16)
 - b) What fruit is to a tree. (Mt. 7:16-20)
- 3) Our good works aren’t meant to draw attention to ourselves, but to our God! (Mt. 5:16)
- 4) “Good works” are the fruit (result) of God’s Spirit working in & through us. (Gal. 5:22,23)

This is the very heart and essence of Grace!

Ph. 2:13 *“It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure”*

1 Cor 15:10 *“by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”*

Conclusion: *Ephesians 2 opens with a reminder of the Work (effects) of sin and how it leaves us Dead, Disobedient, Depraved and Doomed. Vs 4,5 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins hath quickened us together with Christ...” 5-10 reminds us that God intervenes by his Grace and offers to work for us (through Christ’s atonement) Vs 5-10 in us (by His Grace) and Through us (by our obedient response to him)!*

Application: Are you currently:

- Still wearing the graveclothes of the past or the "grace-clothes" God’s provided? (Eph. 4:22-24)
- Walking in the liberty you have in Christ, or still bound by the habits of the old life? (Gal. 5:1)

Eph. 2 reminds us that we’ve raised up and seated with Christ.

Practice your position in Christ!

**He’s worked for you; now let Him work in you and through you,
that He might give you the exciting, creative life he’s designed you for!**