

SERMON SERIES: *Walking In The Light*
SERMON TITLE: *The Problem And The Cure*
SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2
DATE: 6.27.21

BIG IDEA:

Even when we were dead in sin, God made us alive together with Christ.

1. The Problem

A. Dead in trespasses and SINS.

- Sin is breaking one of God's laws.

B. Conducting ourselves in the LUSTS of our flesh.

- The Greek word translated "lust" means an over-desire, an inordinate desire, an all controlling longing or craving.
- The main problem we have is not so much that we desire bad things but that we over-desire good things.
- Our flesh is our sinful nature that does not want to live under God's rule, does not want to trust God, and seeks to find salvation apart from him.
- Our flesh, in an attempt to create a life of significance, satisfaction, and security, is an idol making machine.
- When the flesh turns a good thing into a God thing and thereby creates an over-desire for it, we become controlled, enslaved by the idol and the excessive desire.
- Beneath all of your sinful actions is an excessive desire, most often for good things, created by idolatry.

C. Walking according to the WORLD.

- In speaking of the "world," Paul is not referring to the physical cosmos but rather the prevailing belief systems and values that are contrary to the ways of God that popular culture promotes.
 - The gospel of physical beauty.
 - The gospel of materialism.
 - The gospel of careerism.
 - The gospel of romantic love.
 - The gospel of individualism.
- We are bombarded with these messages in our culture that fan the flame of our flesh towards idolatry and over-desire.

D. Walking according to the PRINCE of the POWER of the AIR.

- Satan and his agents are behind the false gospels that our culture is full of and they are always seeking to influence our flesh to turn natural desires into excessive, inordinate desires.
- Satan wants us to over-desire good things so that we go about fulfilling legitimate desires through illegitimate means.

2.The Cure

A. Faulty Cures

1. Remove Desire
2. Idol Swap
3. Behavior Management

B. The Real Cure

1. In order for our addiction to sin to be cured, we must become **alive to God**. When we become alive to God, we become God's workmanship that he creates new.
2. One of the main ways God renews us is by reordering our disordered love.

3.The Result

A. When we love God supremely, we are liberated to actually love others.

B. When we love God supremely, our love will have guardrails.

C. When we love God supremely, we will be free to actually enjoy the gifts God gives us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What sins do you struggle with?
2. What longing or craving are you looking to satisfy when you engage in those sins?
3. What idol are you putting your trust in that is causing your excessive desire?
4. Are you alive to God through repentance and faith in Christ?
5. The more attractive God becomes to you, the less attractive sin becomes. How can you set your mind upon the beauty of Christ this week?
6. Which brother or sister in Christ can provide you with support and challenge?