

**DEAD IN SIN**  
**EPHESIANS 2:1-3**

July 19, 2009

Grace Bible Church  
Life in Christ: a Study of Ephesians

*THE SINFUL STATE OF AN UNBELIEVER LEAVES HIM INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING TO PLEASE GOD.*

**1. A Dead Man is DEAD (v. 1)**

*"WE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO REAFFIRM THAT A LIFE WITHOUT GOD (HOWEVER PHYSICALLY FIT AND MENTALLY ALERT THAT PERSON MAY BE) IS A LIVING DEATH, AND THAT THOSE WHO LIVE IT ARE DEAD EVEN WHILE THEY ARE LIVING."*

— JOHN STOTT.

*"IT IS EQUALLY DANGEROUS TO MAN TO KNOW GOD WITHOUT KNOWING HIS OWN WRETCHEDNESS, AND TO KNOW HIS OWN WRETCHEDNESS WITHOUT KNOWING GOD. ... GOD IS NONE OTHER THAN THE SAVIOR OF OUR WRETCHEDNESS. SO WE CAN ONLY KNOW GOD WELL BY KNOWING OUR INIQUITIES. ... THOSE WHO HAVE KNOWN GOD WITHOUT KNOWING THEIR WRETCHEDNESS HAVE NOT GLORIFIED HIM, BUT HAVE GLORIFIED THEMSELVES."*

— BLAISE PASCAL.

**2. A Dead Man Lives According to the WORLD'S PRINCIPLES (v. 2a)**

*"EVIL DEEDS ARE THE FRUIT OF AN EVIL HEART. THEY ARE NOT AN ABERRATION FROM OUR TRUE SELF BUT A REVELATION OF IT."*

— SINCLAIR FERGUSON,  
*THE GRACE OF REPENTANCE.*

### 3. A Dead Man Lives Under the AUTHORITY OF SATAN (v. 2b)

*“THE PRODIGAL SON IS NOT MERELY A PICTURE OF THE WORST OF SINNERS; HE IS A SYMBOL OF EVERY UNREDEEMED SINNER — ALIENATED FROM GOD AND WITHOUT A HOPE IN THE WORLD (EPHESIANS 2:12). HE IS A PRECISE AND LIVING EFFIGY OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE — FALLEN, SINFUL, AND REBELLIOUS. WORSE YET, HIS CHARACTER REFLECTS NOT ONLY THE STATE OF OUR FALLEN RACE AS A WHOLE BUT ALSO THE NATURAL CONDITION OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL EVER CONCEIVED BY A HUMAN FATHER SINCE THE FALL OF ADAM.”*

— JOHN MACARTHUR,  
A TALE OF TWO SONS.

### 4. A Dead Man Lives Out His Own DEAD DESIRES (v. 3a)

*“UNTIL WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE AS BAD AS GOD SAYS WE ARE, WE CAN NEVER BELIEVE THAT HE WILL DO FOR US WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO. RIGHT HERE IS WHERE POPULAR RELIGION BREAKS DOWN.”*

— A. W. TOZER.

### 5. A Dead Man is a CONDEMNED Man (v. 3b)

#### **For further thought and action:**

1. Read or listen to one or more of the following sermons / books / articles:
  - Lundgaard, Kris. *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1998.
  - MacArthur, John. A series of two sermons on Ephesians 2:1-10 at: [www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons/scripture](http://www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons/scripture) (click "Ephesians"). See also his sermon, "The Doctrine of Absolute Inability," at: [www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons/90-276](http://www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons/90-276).
  - Pennington, Tom. "This is Your Life," a series of 9 sermons on Ephesians 2:1-10, at: <http://countrysidebible.org/CBC.php?t=23&series=13&seriesT=Ephesians> (audio only).
  - Piper, John, a series of four sermons on Ephesians 2:1-10 at: [www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/3/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/3/) (audio and manuscript).
2. These three verses, in many ways, parallel Romans 1-3. Read those chapters this week. How many statements do you find there that relate to what Paul says in Ephesians 2:1-3?
3. One of the implications of this passage is that it is good news to tell someone he is a sinner — and not just a sinner, but a dead man that is without any source of hope in himself. How should that impact the way we communicate the gospel?
4. In preparation for the next sermon, read Ephesians 2:1-10. How do verses 4-7 relate to vv. 1-3? How does this entire section relate to chapter 1?