

- a. Paul says that we were all dead in our trespasses and sins (2:1). Dead means “incapable” as much as anything else. Yet, if you know Jesus Christ, you are no longer dead. The Bible also tells us that we’ve passed from death to life and it was *Christ’s* work and not our own.

When was the last time you really thought through being a recipient of the gift of God?

- b. This portion of Ephesians continues to discuss our lives *in reference to God*. In other words, Paul saw God at the center of our lives and so everything he’s written reflects that.

We often live as if we’re the center of our lives. This is what I call a “Two Picture” view of reality: God’s and ours. If you’re struggling with an issue (or several) could it be because you don’t like God’s picture of reality? Is your struggle a dressed-up pout against God?

- c. If unbelievers are dead to God (in every saving way), that informs the way we evangelize people. Unfortunately, we can “soft pedal” the Gospel by not being truthful with people, i.e., not telling them that for their sins need a Savior.

Is your evangelism true to the picture Paul paints of those who are outside of Christ? Are you calling people to repent of their sins or are you telling them that their lives could be better with Christ?

- d. In James, he wrote that we must be about “*Keeping oneself unstained from the world*” (1:27). Paul says there is a “course of this world” or that this world has a default character. That default is ungodliness. It is the water we swim in and the air we breathe. How has it stained you? How has it affected your thinking?

- e. There are two kinds of sons in this world: those of disobedience (wrath) and those of obedience (mercy). Each type of son displays specific behaviors. What would your spouse or closest friend say that your behavior looks more like? Which are you?

- f. Worry, lust and anger are “passions of our flesh.” Are you ignoring these in your life? Why?