



Metamorphosis: Changing direction

ESV

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

The story so far

- In the book of Ephesians Paul gives us insights into how change happens, in our lives, in our community, in our world.
- Eph 1 has looked at God's revealed plan to choose us, redeem us and know the presence of the Holy Spirit. The chapter closes with Paul praying that we would have our eyes opened to the power that is available to us.

Introduction

Paul is explaining how our lives have changed direction. Contrasting our condition prior to knowing God with us now being 'in Christ'. Permanent change on every level is now available to us.

1. Our condition without Christ

1. vs.1 Dead – helpless – nothing we can do about it.

Trespass = false steps across a boundary

Sins = falling short of the mark.

Therefore omission and commission.

Is 59:2 “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and God”

2. vs.2 Trapped –

(i) following the course of this world = our fallen self-centered nature.
(Rom 12:2)

(ii) and “the prince of power of the air” (Jn 12:31)

Result is addictions, powerlessness, prisoners.

3. vs.3 Terrifying future – wrath

Merciful Warnings of Jesus

Better to lose a sinning hand than to go to hell with both hands (Mt 5:30)

Furnace of fire (Mt 13:42)

Weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt 8:12)

2. Our condition with Christ

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Contrasts vividly with the first section.

3 verbs after “but God”

4. “made alive”
5. “raised”
6. “made to sit” Emphasis on God having achieved this.

But God

(i) Makes dead people alive again. Only one who can do that - life eternal

Jn 3:16

(ii) Raised us up - seated with him in heavenly places - key to getting free

Colossians 3:3 says, "For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Spiritually positioned with Christ. Affects our ambitions, aspirations, and hopes. Our ‘hearts’ are now with Christ.

(iii) Future of receiving kindness

God's settled purpose is to be gracious to those who are in Christ Jesus. And lest we miss the sweetness and gentleness and gladness of the word "grace," he adds the words, "in kindness toward us." Now ask yourself this question: If there were one person in all the universe the benefits of whose kindness you could choose, who would it be? Would it not be God? You might be able to think of a thousand things that would be kindness to you. But then your imagination would run out. But God's imagination will never run out.

John Piper

Conclusion

Without Christ	But God
Dead in trespasses and sins	Made alive together with Christ
Prisoners to prince of power of the air	Princes seated within Him in heavenly places
Children of wrath	Kindness forever