

DIGDEEPER

October 18, 2015
Ephesians 2:1-3 ([Listen](#))
Dr. Richard Rogers

THE BIG IDEA

Before Jesus, we were lifeless, hopeless, godless, and empty. We did everything for our own pleasure and followed the way of Satan in this world. But, something astounding happened when God moved us from everlasting death to eternal life by making us alive in Christ. We should no longer walk as dead people but as those who have life that cannot be lost.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

What does our world need more than anything else?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What words best describe your life before Christ? What words describe your life now?
- What effect has your sin had on you? On those closest to you? On God?
- How have you disobeyed God recently and how did you try to justify it in your own mind?
- Paul mentions Satan in this passage. Too often, we put ourselves at risk by ingoring him and his efforts to sabotage our new life. How has Satan been at work in your life lately?

GO DEEPER

- At the root of our sin (both before Christ and as a Christian) is a distrust of God. Jackie Hill Perry does an excellent job of explaining [how we can combat this distrust](#).
- We don't speak nearly as often of the wrath of God as the Bible does. In fact, Paul's use of that phrase may surprise you. Keith and Kristyn Getty penned the modern hymn "[In Christ Alone](#)" which mentions the idea prominently. Some have changed the lyric, but the Gettys insist on preserving it. Here's [the full story and an interview with Keith about why](#).
- As Ephesians says, we were dead (not merely sick!) in our sin. Only God had the power to resurrect our dead hearts. Because he has done that, we have so much to celebrate. Let this [brief post from Ligonier.org](#) lead you into seeing that more clearly.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

While speaking about our own sinfulness, Richard said, "What you desire, you will indulge. What you indulge, you will become." Whether it is money, power, sex, or something completely different, our sinful nature will sacrifice relationships and resources to get more of what we want. And that desire won't simply go away with time and age.

Instead, God has made atonement for our sin in Christ and has given us the Spirit to combat these sinful desires. We should constantly be asking the Spirit to reveal the things we desire above God. When he does, we must repent and actively kill the root of that sin in our heart.

Ask God to reveal those sinful desires to you, then get about the business of replacing them.

▶▶ If you need help with that, let JI Packer help lead you there in [this brief video](#). ◀◀