

Grow in Jesus – “Grow in Good Works”

Ephesian Series: Part 4. Ephesians 2:1-10

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- The problem of sin and the deadly result it brings.
- The problem of prayer being dead without corresponding change of heart and actions.
- We are created for good works.. in Christ we are redeemed for good works.

A. Sin is deadly (v.1-3) (Turn away from it.)

1. Sin has infected humanity in a deadly way (v.1)

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

2. Sin is caused by the deceit of the Devil (v.2)

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3. Sin deceives people’s desires and thoughts (v.3)

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

B. God’s love is the antidote (v.4-5)

1. Trust that God loves us and is merciful (v.4)

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

2. Receive God’s gift of saving grace (v. 5)

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions —it is by grace you have been saved.

C. God’s grace is shown and given in Jesus Christ (v.6-9)

1. The resurrection and ascension of Christ reveals Christ’s authority with God to save us. (v.6)

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

2. The Lordship of Jesus today is to dispense the riches of God’s grace in kindness to save us. (v.7)

7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

3. The Ministry of Christ is to save people who by faith receive the gift of grace. (v. 8-9)

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

D. God’s grace leads believers to good works (v. 10)

10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Questions:

1. Where is sin so pervasive in our world today? Give examples.
2. What are obvious and subtle examples of sin?
3. Can we earn God’s love through our good works? Why not?
4. In what way has God’s love and grace been essential in your life and faith? How has it made a difference?
5. Why is it essential that prayers of faith be the catalyst for good works?