

Ephesians 2:1-7 (NASB95)

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the **sons of disobedience**. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, 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 ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

- i. Who are children of wrath and what does this mean?
- ii. We should first understand this idea of wrath by understanding that God is a God of wrath:
 1. **Nahum 1:2 (NASB)** A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
 2. A day of judgement is coming (the day of wrath) where God will pour out his judgement.
 - a. **Zephaniah 1:14-18 (NASB)** 14 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers. 17 I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD'S wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.
 - b. **Isaiah 63:1-6 (NASB)** 1 Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? 3 "I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment. 4 "For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. 5 "I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to

Me, And My wrath upheld Me. 6 “I trod down the peoples in My anger And made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”

3. That wrath is reserved for a particular group of people. the son's of disobedience. Who are they? The people who've disobeyed god's way to righteousness. They haven't accepted christ.
 - a. **Ephesians 5:6 (NASB)** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
 - b. **Colossians 3:6 (NASB)** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,
4. Those of us who've accepted christ will be saved from God's wrath.
 - a. **1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NASB)** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - b. **Romans 5:9 (NASB)** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
5. This is what Paul goes on to speak about in verse 4 and beyond in chapter 2.

Ephesians 2:4-7

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, 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 ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- I. **But** - conjunction of contrast connecting Paul's thoughts from verses 1-3 to what he is about to say through the remainder of the chapter.
 - a. **Being rich** - plousios (plü'-se-os) metaphorically abounding, abundantly supplied
 - b. **in mercy** - eleos (e'-le-os) kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them
 - c. **Grace** - charis (khä'-res) - unmerited favor
 - i. *“In Christianity, God's grace and [God's mercy](https://www.learnreligions.com/meaning-of-gods-grace-for-christians-700723) are often confused. Although they are similar expressions of his favor and love, they possess a clear distinction. When we experience God's grace, we receive favor that we do not deserve. When we experience God's mercy, we are spared punishment that we do deserve.”*
<https://www.learnreligions.com/meaning-of-gods-grace-for-christians-700723>
- d. What was God's motivation for saving us?: **“because of His great love with which He loved us”**
- e. Let's read verse 4 again, it's because of His great love towards us that He extended His mercy and grace towards us and saved us.

- i. **1 John 4:10 (NASB95)** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
 - ii. **Romans 5:8 (NLT)** But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
- f. Paul reminds us though that He loved us so much that He didn't die for us because there was something that we could offer or that He wanted from us: **5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**
- g. How great is God's grace and mercy? Should moving you and I from having a dead spirit to miraculously making it alive not be enough He then did the following:
- i. **6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**
 - 1. **With** - para (pä-rä') - from, of at, by, besides, near
 - 2. **With** - meta (me-tä') with, after, behind
 - 3. **With** - syn (sün) a primary preposition denoting union; with or together (but much closer than meta or para), i.e. by association, companionship, process, resemblance, possession, instrumentality, addition, etc.:— beside, with. In composition it has similar applications, including completeness.
 - a. prepositional prefix "sun/syn" which means with in Greek but is significantly different than the other Greek word for with (meta) which conveys the of beside, whereas sun speaks of an intimate, indissoluble union...Paul is driving home not only these basic truths of our salvation but also emphasizing with the use of sun- that this salvation is irrevocable. You cannot lose your salvation...We are eternally identified with Him.
 - 4. **Raised Up With Him**- synegeiro (sün-e-ga'-ro) to raise (used only 3x in NT) - together, to cause to raise together
 - 5. **Seated Us With Him** - sygkathizo (sün-kä-the'-zo) (used only 2x in NT)
 - a. **Ephesians 1:20-21 (NASB)** 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
 - i. **Seated** in Ephesians 1:21 = *kathizo (kä-the'-zo)* - to set, appoint, to confer a kingdom on one
 - ii. **Seated** in Ephesians 2:6 = *sygkathizo (sün-kä-the'-zo)* to cause to sit down together, place together

1. **Analogy** - Think of the most incredibly prestigious wedding event that can come to mind. Now think of the reception and dinner afterwards. There's tables everywhere, people at those tables enjoying themselves. But there is only one table that is The Table. It's the head table that the 1st Born Son (Groom) sits at and there is another chair at that table. Who gets to sit there? The Bride does. That is you and I.

II. 7 so that in the ages to come He **might show** the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- a. **1 Timothy 1:16 (NASB95)** Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.
 - i. When you pause and realize what being associated with Jesus Christ means to God it's beyond our ability to comprehend.
- b. "Motivated by His great love for us, God desired to help us in our miserable condition, so He gave us an undeserved gift, He saved us through His Son's death and then resurrected us with Him and grants privilege to us simply because we are in Christ. He's done this so that in the future He can demonstrate just how exceedingly rich His grace is to us by what His Son has done for us."