

Forever Changed

Ephesians 2:1-7

- I. **My Past Sin**: We were totally incapable of saving ourselves because of our sin made us spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-3).
- A. **Our Condition**: Sinners are spiritually dead and helpless to change their status with God (2:1-2; Ephesians 4:18).
1. **Acts of sin**: We are influenced toward sin through Satan's power in this world (1-3a).
 2. **The Sin Nature**: We sin "naturally" simply by following the desires of our own sinful nature (3a; Galatians 5:17; Psalm 51:5; 58:3).
 - Total depravity – The doctrine that we are totally incapable of saving ourselves.
- B. **Our Judgment**: Sinners spiritually deserve God's eternal wrath (2:3b; John 3:36; Romans 6:23).
- II. **My Present Status**: We are saved only because God graciously united us with Christ making us spiritually alive (Ephesians 2:4-7).
- A. **God's Motive** – His Saving Nature: God saves us because His nature is love and mercy (4).
- B. **God's Method** – His Saving Act: God saves us by grace (5-6).
1. We are *made alive* spiritually through union with Christ (5).
 2. We are *seated with Christ* – given eternal salvation based only on God's grace (6; see 2:8-9).
- C. **God's Goal** – His Eternal Praise: God saves us only by grace through Christ so that He will be praised forever (7).

What's Wrong with Religion?

	Religion	God's Word Ephesians 2:1-7
The Problem	My Feelings 1. I do bad things 2. I feel guilt, regret	My Sin 1. I violate God's holiness 2. Spiritually dead/unable
The Solution	My Good Works •Improve/Compensate /Impress God	God's Grace •God gives grace (through faith in Christ 2:8).
The Result	I'm Proud, thinking I deserve heaven	God is Praised when I get to heaven

