

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –  
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE  
PROGRAM 17 (#912197)  
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –  
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare  
TITLE: Program 17 – As Children Of God We Need To Point Others  
To The Light Of Life**

**TUESDAY**

**OPEN**

There are a multitude of nations on the face of this earth. But really there are only two kingdoms. And you and I belong to one of those two kingdoms. And I’m wondering do you and I belong to the same kingdom? There is the kingdom of God. You say that’s the one I want to belong to. If you’re smart you will. And there is the kingdom of Satan. And you say oh God forbid, the devil scares me. Well he ought too, but you don’t want to belong to his kingdom.

**PART ONE**

I wonder what would happen Beloved if we went to a mall and interviewed people as they walked by. I wonder what would happen if we asked them

whose kingdom do you belong to? I think they would think that we were crazy. Or if we asked them do you know who Jesus Christ is? Have you ever believed that Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God and the only way to God? Have you ever invited Christ to be your Lord and your God? Have you ever believed in Him? Are you truly a child of God? And if they said no and they say frankly I want you to know I am perfectly content with the way I am. I am just fine. Leave me alone. And we just stopped and said I know that you think you're fine. But let me tell you what God has to say. God says that you are part of the kingdom of darkness that Satan is your father and that he is ruling over you. I wonder what would happen when we said that. I mean that could really be a stopper. I mean stop you dead in your tracks because what are you? If you are of the kingdom of Satan then honey, sir you are dead in your tracks. You are dead in your trespasses and sins. Well we have begun exploring Ephesians chapter 2. It's an incredible incredible chapter because of where it takes you. It's going to take you into a whole new realm. And I pray and I've been praying for you that God would use this to open the eyes of your understanding to show you what it really means to be a child of God so that you will live accordingly, so that you will live in the light of truth. Well my friend, sit down next to me and let's discover truth for ourselves. All right, what I want us to do is I want us to go to Ephesians chapter 2 verse 1 and I want to read verses 1, 2 and 3. And if you have your Bibles and you're able to open them and to read along with me, and if you don't have the same version that I have, if you have a New Inductive Study Bible or a New American Standard version then get out your observation worksheets on Ephesians. Now you know if you got our study guide, if you downloaded it, that our observation worksheets are the text of Ephesians that you have laid out printed out for you so that can mark them, so that you can observe the text and see what it says. If you don't have this we want you to go to our website. We have a wonderful gift for you, absolutely free. It is a study guide on the book of Ephesians and you just go to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and

you can download it and it is our gift to you and there’s nothing greater that we can give you than the Word of God. And I mean that because [“Man doesn’t live by bread alone. He lives by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.”] (Paraphrase, Deuteronomy 8:3b) So let’s look at this every word. He says **“And you...,”** and Paul is writing to the Gentiles, these Gentiles that are living in Ephesus. He says **“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world....”** (Ephesians 2:1-2a) Now we’ve already talked about marking “formerly.” We’ve already talked about marking “walked” in a previous lesson. So he says, **“...You formerly walked according...,”** and this is what I want you to see, **“...the course of this world....,”** according to what this world is all about, according to the culture is what it means, according to the mores, m-o-r-e-s of this world, according to the dictates of this world. And he says, **“...you...walked according to the course of this world....”** **“...You... walked according to...,”** and “according to” again is under the dominion of, **“...the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”** (Ephesians 2:2) If I were to go to the mall and if I were to stop someone and if I were to say to them, because you don’t believe in Jesus Christ you now are under the dominion of the prince of the power of the air. You are a son, a child of disobedience. I wonder what their reaction would be. I wonder how they would respond to such confrontation. But you see they need to know this. You really need to know where you are because where you are determines where you’re going. And where you are and where you’re going determines your future. And so he says, **“...You...walked according to...,”** under the dominion of, **“...the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”** (2:2) Those that said that they didn’t believe in Jesus Christ I could look at them and I could know that the spirit of the evil one is working in them and that they are sons of disobedience. That’s what I was too. And it says **“Among them we too all**

**formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh....” (2:3a)** In other words we were all there at one time, **“...Indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind....” (2:3)** When I’m walking according to the course of this world, when I am walking under the dominion of the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience then what I am doing is I am being governed by the lusts, the desires, the passions of my flesh. In other words, what my flesh wants I’m going to give it. I mean you see that in our society, because we are a society that does not live with absolutes. We are a society that has no restraints. You can see it in the way that we order our lives. You can see it in the way that we spend our money. You can see it in the things that we eat and the things that we drink. You can see it in our overindulgence. You can see it in our sensuality. You can see it in our sexuality. You can see it. We indulge the desires of the flesh. When the flesh says give me, give me, give me what I cry for, we say oh gosh, of course I’ll give you what you cry for. And the devil is just sitting there applauding us and urging us on because he wants us to walk farther and farther and farther away from the image of God. So it says we **“...[indulge] the desires of our flesh....,”** but not only the desires of our flesh but we indulge the desires of our mind. And this is why pornography is such a major major industry not only in the United States, but in the world. And this is why men go back and back and back to that internet. This is why we have so many of these chat rooms and people being seduced and that. This is why we have so many child molestations and so many brutal murders and that because men are living. I mean this explains society. At least this helps you understand because they’re living this way. They have bought a lie. And because they have bought a lie and because they belong to the father of lies then they indulge not only the desires of the flesh, but the desires of their mind. And they think hey, I’m all right. I’m not doing it with my hands. I’m not doing it with my body. But listen if you’re doing it with your mind you’re doing it. Because Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, if you keep on looking at a

woman to commit adultery with her in your heart, in your mind; in other words you're sleeping with her in your mind, you're thinking all these things that you would do to her that you would do with her, then God says you are guilty of adultery. So this is the way the world is walking. Now it can be, Beloved, to one degree or another. It doesn't mean that everyone that doesn't believe Jesus Christ is hooked on pornography. And it doesn't mean that they are rapists and murderers and perverts and pedophiles and things like that. There are all sorts of different degrees of sin, but it is all sin, because the Bible says in Romans that [all have sinned and they come short.] (Paraphrase, Romans 3:23) Here is God's standard of perfection. Let me put it for you in a picturesque way so that you can get it. So if you would just draw your straight line again and then with that straight line what you would do is you would put a stick figure to represent you. And then up at the top of that line put a straight line parallel to the other one and that's God's standard. That's the way God says that you and I are to walk. Okay so the Bible says all in their walk **"...fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23b)** In other words we aren't living up to what God intended us to live up to when He created us in our image. Now some people get this high. I mean they're just you know they're a quarter of an inch from the bottom of the line. I mean they they fall so far short. Others come pretty high in comparison. And yet the Bible says that there is always that there is always a gap, that **"...all have sinned and [come] short of the glory of God."** **(Romans 3:23)** **"There's none righteous, no, not one. There's none that understandeth, there's none that seeketh after God." (Romans 3:10-11 KJV)** Now why is this true? Well I want you to go to John chapter 8, verse 44. Now remember he says that we walk according to the prince of this world, according to the prince the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience, so you go back to the gospel. You go back to John chapter 8. Now Jesus is turning and He's speaking to some Pharisees. He is speaking in this passage. He is speaking to people that have a righteousness because

they’ve been living under the law and so outwardly they’ve been keeping the law. The law is the Ten Commandments and all the ordinances that go with it. And so He’s speaking to religious people. Now if we were going to put them on the scale that we just drew we would put them closer to the top of God’s righteousness rather than at the bottom because they’re keeping the law. By the way, remember Paul says in Ephesians chapter 2 **“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh....”** (Ephesians 2:3) So he’s including the Jews as well as the Gentiles. They’re all, we’re all are under sin. Now I want to show you John 8:44, but before that let’s take a break.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back my friend. Well let’s go to John chapter 8. In John chapter 8 these religious leaders are trying to kill Jesus. I mean anytime there’s murder in your heart you’ve got to know there’s something terribly terribly wrong. And Jesus says to them **“You’re seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from [you].”** (John 8:40) He says in verse 41 **“You are doing the deeds of your father.”** [And] **they said to Him, ‘We’re not born of fornication; we [only] have one Father: [and that’s] God.’** [And] **Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father...,’** now listen, **“...you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God...,”** He says **“...for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent me.”** (John 8:41-42) I came because the Father sent Me to you. **“Why do you not understand...?”** **“...It’s because you cannot hear My word.”** (8:43) He says **“You...,”** now hang on, **“...are of your father the devil....”** **“...you want to do the desires of your father....”** (8:44a) Remember in Ephesians chapter 2 [when we’re dead in trespasses and sins we walk according to the desires of the flesh. We walk according to the desires of the mind. We are under the dominion of Satan. And so he’s the

prince of the power of the air. He’s the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience.] (Paraphrase 2:1-3) Well what is he? Well “**...He was a murderer...,**” John 8:44, “**...from the beginning, and [he] does not stand in the truth....**” I mean the first thing he ever did was murder Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. You say oh no, they kept living. He murdered them spiritually. He told them God knows that when you eat of the fruit of that tree you will be like God knowing good and evil. He enticed them to believe a lie and he told that they wouldn’t die, but they did die. They died spiritually and that’s what he means in Ephesians 2 when he says [“You are dead in your trespasses and sins.”] (Paraphrased, Ephesians 2:5) Of course you’re alive. Of course you’re walking according to the desires of your flesh and to the desires of your mind. He says [“But you are dead, you are spiritually dead in your trespasses and sins.”] (Paraphrased) And so He says “**He**”, the devil is “**...a murderer from the beginning, [he] does not stand in the truth...there is no truth in him. [There is no truth in him]. [When ever] he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**” (John 8:44b) So when you’re dead in your trespasses and sins, when you do not belong to the kingdom of God you belong to the kingdom of darkness. And the one that rules over that kingdom of darkness is Satan. And what gives him the power to rule? Well I want to you to go to Hebrews chapter 2 Hebrew chapter 2 and this is a very important verse. In Hebrews chapter 2 it says in verse 14: “**...since the children...,**” since you and I “**...share in flesh and blood, He Himself...,**” speaking of Jesus, “**...likewise also partook of the same....**” He became flesh and blood in the fullness of time, in the summing up of all things in Christ Jesus became a man, a human being. He “**...partook of the same, [so] that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.**” (Hebrews 2:14) Now Satan has the power of death. You say, no, God’s sovereign. Satan has the power of death because of sin. And when you and I sin then that means we’re going to die and we are going to spend

eternity separated from God. So he had “...the power of death, that is, the devil, and [so that Jesus] might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” (Hebrews 2:14b-15) Man doesn’t want to die because he doesn’t know that he’s going to be absent from the body and present with the Lord. He doesn’t want to die because he’s going to go to hell. He may not believe that. I’m sure he doesn’t or he would do something about it. But he’s going to die. And so what God is saying is that Jesus when He died on that cross as a human being, He paid for your sins in full. And when you have forgiveness of sins then Satan has no power over you. We’re going to see that as we go along and it’s going to make sense and it’s going to go deeper, but I want to take you to John chapter 12 now. And I want to show you what Jesus had to say about Satan. Now in John chapter 12 Jesus has just said that [He’s a corn of wheat, that He’s going to die, that His hour has come for the corn of wheat to fall into the ground and die so that that corn of wheat might bring forth life.] (Paraphrased, John 12:23-24) If you just stop and you think of a kernel of wheat what happens is that kernel cracks open and when it cracks open out of that kernel comes life, comes a stalk of wheat. And on that wheat there are many many heads of grain. And Jesus is like the corn of wheat. If He falls in the ground and dies then He’s going to bring forth life. So in John chapter 12 this is what Jesus is saying. He’s talking about His hour has come. He’s going to die. He says **“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” (John 12:31)** He will be kicked out. He says **“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth....” (12:32a)** So when He is the kernel of wheat and He is dying it’s speaking of His death on the cross. And He says **“And I, if I [be] lifted up from the earth...,”** now watch what He says, **“...will draw all men to Myself.” (12:32)** For **“...He was saying this to indicate [what] kind of death [He was about] to die,” (12:33)** which was crucifixion. [“And the crowd answers ‘And we’ve said that the Christ] **remain forever; ...how can You say ‘The Son of Man must be lifted**



up’? Who is this Son of Man?’ So Jesus said to them...,” He says,  
“...For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you  
have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in  
darkness does not know where he goes.” (John 12:34-35) Now what is  
this kingdom of darkness that He’s talking about? Well you go to Colossians  
chapter 1 and you go to Paul’s prayer. And in his prayer he says this in verse  
13 of chapter 1 “**For He...,**” speaking of Jesus, “**rescued us from the  
domain of darkness, and transferred us [into] the kingdom of His  
beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins,**”  
(Colossians 1:13-14) because Christ died for you. When He died for you He  
took away your sin and because He took away your sin Satan has no power  
over you. Yes, 1 John chapter 5 verse 19 says “**...that the whole world lies  
in the power of the evil one.**” It’s the whole world except those who belong  
to Jesus Christ. So you can know this Beloved, every human being who has  
never believed in Jesus Christ, every human being who has never received  
Him is dead in their trespasses and sins. They are under the dominion of the  
prince of this world because sin’s power has never been broken and sin’s  
penalty has not been paid in their life. Oh the payment’s been made but they  
don’t believe it. They won’t receive it. [And so they walk according to the  
lusts of their flesh. They walk according to the desires of their mind. They  
are by nature children of wrath, sons of disobedience.] (Paraphrase,  
Ephesians 2:2-3) Oh the good news is that you don’t have to be that way.  
The good news is that you can believe on Jesus Christ and move from  
darkness to Light, from the power of Satan to the kingdom of God. You  
Beloved, by calling upon the name of the Lord can have forgiveness of sins  
and you can move into the kingdom of God.