

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –  
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE  
PROGRAM 16 (#912196)  
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –  
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

**TITLE: Program 16 – You Used To Be Dead In Your Sins**

**MONDAY**

**OPEN**

Have you ever thought my whole life stinks? Or if you want to say it in King James English, my whole stinketh. If you want to put that T-H on the end of stink, it is all right because death stinks. It really does and when you walk according to the desires of your flesh, when you indulge the desires of your flesh and the desires of your mind, you’re gonna find that life stinks and you wonder is there ever going to be a sweet fragrance in it. Oh yes, Beloved, we’ll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

Ephesians 2:1 says, “**And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,**” and when I think of death I have to think of the stench of death. And when I think of the stench of death, I’m reminded of what happened in New Orleans

when the hurricane hit and when the levies didn't hold and when the city was flooded and wiped out. I think about all the bodies that laid in the streets and they were unable to bury them and how the stench of death filled the air. I think about how the earthquakes came in Afghanistan and Pakistan and India soon on the heels of that terrible catastrophe in New Orleans and I think about the stench of death again. Death has a stench and Beloved, those that are walking in spiritual death in a sense even though they're very nice people there's a stench of death around them because they're dead in their trespasses and sins and it's not a stench that you can smell with your nose but it's a spiritual stench. It's a stench that causes you grief, and causes you pain, and cause you sorrow as you look at these poor people. The walking dead going through the motions of life and you know that they are caught in darkness. You know that the God of this world has blinded their eyes that they might not see the glorious light of the gospel. They think they're all right and they do not know that they are dead in their trespasses and sins. In Ephesians chapter 1, in verses 3 to 14 and you can say this with me, there is a eulogy of praise. It is one long sentence. And then in Ephesians chapter 1, in verse 15 to 23, there's another long sentence and it is a sentence of prayer that just pours out from Paul as he desires those in Ephesus and as he desires all those others that are going to read this letter which goes down through the centuries and comes into the millenniums and finally comes to us. And here you and I are reading this letter. And what was true in Paul's heart for those at Ephesus is true in my heart and God's heart for you today. **“I pray that the eyes of your heart [would] be enlightened ...that you [might] know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward[s] us who believe.... (Ephesians 1:18-19a)** And then he talks about this power. This power is resurrection power. This power raised Jesus Christ from the dead. This power seated Jesus. I mean just as Jesus was standing on the Mount of Olives on the day of His ascension and the

disciples were there and He was talking to them and He was saying, “...**All power [has been] given [to] Me in heaven and...earth. Go ye therefore....**” (Matthew 28:18b-19a, KJV) And as He tells them that go ye therefore He tells them when you receive power. [When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be witnesses unto Me go ye therefore. Go in your Jerusalem. Go in Samaria and go to the uttermost parts of the earth] (PARAPHRASE, Acts 1:8) and take what? The glorious news of the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and they were standing there waiting for this promise and hearing it from His own lips and all of a sudden their eyes were going up and their mouths were coming open and they stood gazing into heaven and an angel said to them, [“Ye men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus that you see going will come again.”] (PARAPHRASE, Acts 11) He’s coming again and what is your job and my job right now between His first coming and His second coming? We are the chosen ones. We are the called out ones. We have been adopted as sons. We have been redeemed from the trespasses and the sins of our past. We have been forgiven all of our sins and God has a calling upon our lives to share the gospel and who do we share it to? We share it to those that are dead. We share it to those that are dead and we’re able to share it and we’re able to tell them about life because we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Now he has shown us where Jesus Christ is. [He has shown us that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. That God has put all things in subjection under His feet. Every rule, every power, every authority, every dominion is under the feet of Jesus and Jesus is the one who is the head of the church who fills all in all and the church is His body] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:20-23) and that’s us but he doesn’t want us to miss this important, important truth. He’s got Jesus seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He has told us that we are His body and so if we think about it then we’re seated there but he doesn’t want us to miss the point and so he continues. So let me go from Ephesians chapter 1, verse 23

right into chapter 2 because there’s a conjunction there, there’s an “and” there and this is what he says. Well let me go back to verse 22. “...**He...**,” God, “...**put all things in subjection under His feet...**” (Ephesians 1:22a) That word for subjection is “hupotasso.” “Hupo-” is under and “-tasso” means authority or orders. He is under orders. He is under authority. He has put all things under Jesus’ feet. They are under His authority. And it says, “**And He [God] put all things in subjection under [Jesus’] feet, and gave Him...**,” Jesus, “...**as head over all things to the church, which is His body...**” (Ephesians 1:22-23a) Now what I want you to do is draw a little stick figure if you haven’t done it over the word “body.” I did it in red and then I colored it yellow. Red because we’re blood bought and yellow because that’s the color for God in our body is His body And so the church which is His body. Now you’re going to see “body” as a key repeated word in the book of Ephesians and therefore you want to mark it. Now watch the transition from verse 23. “**Which is His body...**,” the church which is His body, “...**the fullness of Him who fills all in all, and you...**,” and you. (Ephesians 1:23-2:1a) Now you, who? Well we’ve gone through and we’ve marked every reference to the recipients of Paul’s epistle, Paul’s letter. And so we’ve colored them orange and we know that the “you” are the Gentiles. We know that they’re the people that are living in Ephesus. We know that they are the people that were worshipping in the temple of Diana. That were worshipping the idol, the image of Diana or Artemis as she fell out of heaven. We know that these are people that were plagued with evil spirits. We know that this was a very popular, popular city and because it was a very popular city and because it had one of the seven wonders of the world which was the temple of Diana, people worshippers came from all over the world to Ephesus. Ephesus, by the way, is in modern day western Turkey. It’s the near the town of Kusadasi. Okay and it’s a marvelous incredible ruin. It’s the most restored city that I have ever seen. It’s just a wonder. Okay, so they were living in Ephesus and what he’s telling them is that you Gentiles

who were living in Ephesus “...**you were dead in your trespasses and sins.**” (Ephesians 2:1) Now the way that it reads literally, it reads “And you being dead in your trespasses and sins” and I think what he’s trying to do is say Okay here’s Jesus. [He’s seated far above all principality. He is the head of the church which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all and you being dead in your trespasses and sins.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:22-2:1) In other words this is what you were but you ain’t no more and I just want to point it out one time to you so that you really see the contrast. Now I think that’s what he’s doing here. “**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 he’s going to have some “according’s” here and we’re going to mark those “according.” If you go through in in Ephesians and you just mark, color code “according to,” “according to,” “according to,” you’re gonna learn a lot. But what I want you to see here is that you formerly walked. Now this word “formerly” is going to be used again and if you’ve done your homework you know that. So what I did was I put a triangle over it and I colored it brown so I can see every “formerly” because what he’s going to do is he’s going to contrast what you were formerly with what you are now. You used to stink. You used to have the stench of death on you. You formerly were like that and you walked and so what I do is I draw two little feet. I draw legs coming down and two feet over every incident of walk. It becomes a key word later on in the book of Ephesians. Well, when we come back right after this break I’m going to explain it to you in greater detail.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back. Thank you, Beloved, for studying with me. You may say, “But I don’t feel very beloved. You’re telling me that there’s the stench of death around me.” Listen, if you’re a child of God the stench has gone away.

It has gone away. You no longer have to hold your nose. You’re a sweet fragrance unto Christ now but you were a stench of death. We all were and he wants us to understand that. He wants them to know and to understand that they were sinners and the Jews were sinners. So he says, “...**You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly....**” (Ephesians 2:1-2a) and that “formerly” is very important. You used to stink. You didn’t stink no more. All right, “**In which you formerly walked....**” (Ephesians 2:2a) You were walking. How were you walking? Well, you were walking “...**according to....**” (Ephesians 2:1b) “According to” means under the dominion of. It has the word “kata” at the beginning of that word and “kata” means under. You were under the dominion. You were under the power. Now the question is okay, whose power was I under? Whose dominion was I under? How did I walk? Well you want to watch the two “according to’s” in this verse. He says, “**In which you formerly walked according to the course of this world....**” (Ephesians 2:1) or the course of this age. In other words you walked the way the culture said walk. You walked in the direction that the world was walking in. The world was dominating your thoughts and and being accepted in the world and wanting to wear the right clothes and say the right things and go the right places and own the right things. You were under the dominion, of “...**the course of this world....**” (Ephesians 2:2c) You say, “Well what’s wrong with this world?” Well what’s wrong with this world right now is whose in charge of this world. So he goes on to say, “...**according to....**,” here’s your second “according to,” “...**according to the prince of the power of the air....**” (Ephesians 2:2b) You say, “Whose that?” The devil. So what I would suggest is that you put a red pitchfork over “the prince.” That you mark every reference to “the devil” and to all of his “evil spirits” and all of his “domain” with a red pitchfork. And that way you can see hey, this belongs to the devil and this belongs to God. So it says, “...[according to, you] **walked according to the course of this world....**,” now watch, “...**according to the prince of the power of the**

air...,” and then he’s going to explain it, “...of the spirit...,” now catch this. This is why life apart from Christ stinks. And it says, “...of the spirit that is now working...,” now working. Habitually working, where? “...In...,” now watch how he defines us, “...in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:2) Now why were we called sons of disobedience? We were called sons of disobedience because we had not obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s so interesting to find the word obedience going with the gospel of Jesus Christ and I will tell you why they used the word obedience because what they want to show is the belief causes you to obey. It’s not just a head belief that doesn’t do anything for you. It is a belief that causes you to walk the way God says walk. And so this is the way they were walking. Now let me read verse 3 and then I’m going to come back then I’m going to come back and we’re going to look at verse 2 in a little bit more depth. But it says, “Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh....” (Ephesians 2:3a) Now whose the “we” here? The “we” here is the Jews. Paul wants the Jews to understand hey, the stink of death, the stench of death was on you just like it was on the Gentiles. And it was on you because you were a son of disobedience. It was on you because you had not believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. It was on you because you were not a follower of God. Oh yes, you had the motion. Oh yes, you had the religion but you didn’t have the relationship. So when he switches back to “we,” he goes from “you” to “we” and this is very important when he switches back to the “we” he’s including the Jews. He doesn’t want those Jews to get haughty and this is so typical of Paul because this is what we see in Romans and I want us to stop for a minute and let’s turn in our Bibles to Romans chapter 2. In Romans chapter 2, he says, “But if you bear the name ‘Jew...,’” and we’re down in verse 17, “...and rely upon the Law and boast in God, and know His will and approve the things that are sential, being instructed out of the Law, and [you] are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish,

a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you, therefore, who teach [one] another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one [should] not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you [not] rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through ... breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?” (Romans 2:17-23) He says, “For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you...,” you Jew, “...just as it is written.” (Romans 2:24) So then he comes down and he lets us know in chapter 3, verse 9: “What then? Are we...,” Jews, “...better than they...,” the Gentiles, “...Not at all; for we have already charged...,” now catch this, “...both Jews and Greeks are all under sin.” (Romans 3:9) And if you are under the dominion of sin, [if you are walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience,] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 2:2) you are [dead in your trespasses and sins] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 2:1) and spiritually you stinketh. That’s what he’s saying. Death has a stench that goes with it and spiritual death has a stench that goes with it. And so he establishes both Jews and Gentiles as sinners. We all were sinners. We all were sinners. I was a sinner. Every child of every person that’s ever born is born in trespasses and sins. “...In sin did my mother conceive me.” (Psalm 51:5b, KJV) He’s not saying it was a sin for Mamma and Daddy to go to bed. It’s a sin if they don’t go to bed. But what he’s saying is when Mamma and Daddy came together and I was conceived. I was conceived in sin. “[For] by one man...,” Adam, “...sin entered into the world...and so death passed upon all men ... [in] that all have sinned.” (Romans 5:12, KJV) “...The wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23a) and it carries a stench with it. So now let me read on. He says, “Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and [we] were by nature children of wrath...,” now



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catch this, **“...even as the rest.” (Ephesians 2:3)** Everyone, everyone that has ever been born of human flesh carries the stench of death but here’s the good news. **“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead...,”** when we were smelling in our trespasses, **“...in our transgressions, [He] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you’ve been saved), and [He] raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in...heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:4-6)** From death to life, from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the kingdom of God, from the stench of death to the sweet fragrance of Jesus Christ, O Beloved, that’s what He’s done for you. Rejoice. We’ll study it more in the next program.