

Irreparably Broken

CWG Series: part 14

Humanity is Dead in our Sins

April 18 & 19, 2020

Ephesians 2:1-3

Introduction

- **2020 The Year of Connecting** - we've been talking about importance and value of connecting with God and will be focusing later this year on the power of connecting with each other.
- **What does disconnection mean?** - But if Connecting means life and power and joy, then what does disconnection mean? That's the fill in the blank

Disconnection Means DEATH

- **The Good News & the Bad News -**
 - **The good news of the gospel is** that Jesus Christ has died for the sins of His people and Raised to life and gives that eternal life to His children.
 - **The bad news is** that we needed saving in the first place. The bad news is that not everyone has given their life over to the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are living this life disconnected.
 - **If God is the only source of life**, then what does disconnection mean from that source? Death.
 - **God is the source of life** - Let me explain that again, I think some of us missed it. God is the source of life. He is not just the Creator of our world and the Sustainer of our universe, but He is reality. In Him all things hold together. Anything that we call alive has to have a continual source pouring in from Him. He is the outlet where the energy flows from. If we, not matter how brilliantly we are designed, aren't plugged into the flow of energy, there is no life to our system.
 - **He is the Source of tangible life and spiritual life** - We look around and see things alive and flourishing in our world: Trees, animals, people. Just know that God is keeping all of that alive by His presence. But there is another quality of life that we were built for, spiritual life: the Bible calls it - Eternal Life.
 - **Eternal Life** - eternal life is not so much a quantity (long to forever), but a quality. Every human being was born with the capacity to be plugged in. We were all born with a spiritual cord to connect to the divine. That cord allows all of our functions to turn on.

- **Built for More** - We were built for so much more than simply existing. It's like a car that has an engine and starts when you turn it on, but there's no ability to move the tires. The very purpose of the car, to drive around, is unrealized. And yet the majority of human beings go out into their proverbial garage, start their car and just sit there idling. Then at the end of the day they shut it off and go to bed. The very purpose they were designed for is missing. They are not doing what they were made to do.
- **We were born unplugged (Adam and Eve)** - When our forefather and mother Adam and Eve, who had the best chance of doing the right thing, chose to do their own thing they disconnected from God and disconnected humanity from God, in the Garden of Eden. They then passed that reality of being unplugged down to all of their lineage, which is all of humanity.
 - **It's not a punishment to be born unplugged, or spiritually dead** - it's just a reality. We were born with cords, but our cords aren't connected to anything. God didn't do it to be mean. He's not angry about it. As a matter of fact He never took away the cords, He's just waiting for us to plug in.
 - **God's heart for all to be plugged in** - The whole concept that we have cords and we have someone chasing us down telling us to plug in, demonstrates that God's heart is that all of us are plugged in and that all of us become who we were created to be. That's only going to happen if we are connected to Him.
- **In our passage today** - Paul the Apostle is writing to the Church in Ephesus (now in modern day Turkey) telling them this very truth. Now, he says it in ways that meant something to the people during his time on earth. So, he uses different analogies. Let's listen in to what he's talking about.

Lesson

- **Whole Passage for Context: Ephesians 2:1-3** - *"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."*
- **The Walking Dead**
 - **Understanding Our lack of spiritual vitality**
 - Ephesians 2:1-2a - *"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked,..."*

- **You were dead, you were unplugged - Why? 2 reasons:** 1.) you & I were born that way and 2.) you and I have been confirming that you want to remain unplugged ever since.
- **Original Sin** - Theologians call this concept original sin.
 - **It's hereditary** - no one fully knows how it's passed to all of humanity. We don't know if it's a hereditary issue of our souls being disconnected due to our parents' souls being disconnected in a string of disconnection. OR, if God simply pulled the cord on humanity, after Adam and Eve sinned. Either way we inherited it.
 - **How bad is it? - Theologians call it Depravity.** It means there's no way a lamp can plug itself in. If someone else doesn't plug it, it's not going to happen. It means that we are dead-dead, until someone makes us alive. It's like someone on the cart in an ER who coded. If left alone, that person is going to remain dead. But if someone else hits them with the paddles of electricity, the heart is jarred to life and begins beating.
- **Confirming Our Sin** - A bunch of us, when we hear this story think to ourselves, why am I punished or in a bad spot because of what other people did a long time ago? First of all, you would have done the same thing because A&E were our best shot. Secondly, you and I have been confirming their choice every day of our lives.
 - **Why We Sin** - we sin because we are sinners. We don't do godly things because we are unplugged.
 - **What Sin really is** - sin is really selfishness. So many people say, I'm a good person, I should get to heaven. But if selfishness is the standard of sin (all sin comes from selfishness), how many of us are really believing that everything we do in life is for God and nothing for ourselves? It's impossible.
 - **2 Types of sin** - Notice that it says we were dead in our trespasses and sins. That highlights the fact that there are really two types of sin that the human being wrestles with: **1.) Missing the Mark & 2.) Trespassing. Explain...**
 - **Sins, In which we once walked (lifestyle)** - Not only was it our normal condition of being, but it was our LIFESTYLE. It was our habitual way of doing things: Self-focused.
 - **Notice that he says it in past tense**, he's talking to Christians highlighting what they were saved from because he's going to go into more of the exciting pieces of connection with God. But first he wants to highlight where we came from.

- **The Way of the World**
 - **How the world works**
 - Ephesians 2:2b - "...following the course of this world,..."
 - **Defining "the world"** - The Bible, especially Paul, uses the term *world* to describe the part of society that is not focusing on, nor connected to the Lord. It's secular society.
 - **Doing what everyone else does** - *the course of the world* is following how secular society does things. It's what everyone else is doing. We tend to compare ourselves to other people to see if we are good or bad, but the problem with that is we are comparing ourselves in society with people who aren't plugged in.
 - **Relatively Bad (society)** - One thing we need to clarify is that from a Biblical perspective and Christian perspective, secular society is not bad per se. Just because something isn't called Christian doesn't make it bad or wrong. God is moving through all sorts of things both that have His name attached to them and not. The clear lines that we have of Sacred vs. Secular aren't really accurate. **The real problem is found in motivation and connection.**
 - **Motivation Matters** - We all know people who are not Christians who are nicer than most of the Christians we know. It's not about an act being nice or not. Everyone can do nice things. The point is why are we doing what we are doing. Motivation matters.
 - **Connection Matters** - if true life flows from God, then an unplugged life can't give life through what they do. God can USE them despite them, but they can't give away what they do not possess.
 - **That's why** - that's why it's not a matter of who is nicer or not, or who is more moral or not. It's who is living or not and who is plugged in or not. Since God is the one who matters the most, His stuff matters most. So, only God-stuff counts. This is why Christians see a difference in what the world does versus what the Church does. It's not about better people, it's about God connection.
 - **Does Christianity Work (change)?** - C.S. Lewis' concept that you can only measure it by the same person with and without God's influence, not compare two different people.
- **Puppet Master**

- **How Satan Influences the World**

- Ephesians 2:2c - "...following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience..."

- **Who is the Prince of the power of the air? - Satan**, devil, etc. The main bad guy.
- **There's no such thing as following yourself** - either you are on God's team or you aren't. The primary leader of the rebel team is Satan so it tends to be called God vs. Satan, but it's not Pluralism, or an Equal battle of super powers. There is Almighty God and there are created beings. Satan is a created being.
- **Autonomy is a myth** - human beings are not suited to be autonomous. We require too much help to exist. Therefore we are reliant on things, on beings greater than us. It's supposed to be God alone, but we have supplemented Him with serving another master, knowingly or unknowingly.
- **Sorting Satan Worshipers** - there are very few intentional Satan worshipers in America. The Church knows this. The problem is that there are millions and millions of unintentional worshipers. What do I mean? Worship is giving credit to someone. Worship is being impressed by something. Worship is duplicating what someone else does because you want to be like them. We are doing that all the time here on earth as we follow a Godless example and bring glory to the enemy team.
 - **Examples:** when we buy into materialism, Satan wins. When we are selfish, Satan wins. When we are hateful Satan wins. When we take advantage of others, Satan wins.
 - **Why?** - because Satan's team is anti-God's team. So anything that is not life-giving is likely from the enemy's playbook. We are doing that stuff a lot.
- **Satan is the Spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience** - This brings up three points:
 1. **Satan is a spirit** - explain how he's not a regular human being and what he can and can't do.
 2. **Satan works through people** - Just like God wants to work through people, so does Satan. He doesn't want to do all his work alone, he knows that the more people that perpetuate his thinking, the more he wins. So he influences and we carry it out, like a virus.

3. **Not following God is disobedience** - many of us don't understand why Hell would be a punishment. But Biblically God has reached out to man, having created them for Himself, and they are rejecting him actively. That's disobedience and disobedience is punished. Habitual disobedience is rebellions and rebellious are enemies, thus they've got to go = Hell (lake of fire)

- **Satan works through all people, but unplugged are free range puppets**

- **Title**

- **Subtitle**

- Ephesians 2:3a - "...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,..."

- **We all started there** - there is no room for judgment on other people since we are all humans, equal and in the same boat.
- **Living in the flesh, doing what we want** - Paul says we lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and mind - that is a fancy way of saying we lived selfishly doing what we wanted to do, and not for God.
 - **Flesh is the un-regenerated part of the human** - in other words, the flesh is the part that's not honoring God yet. It's the unplugged part.
 - **Sin is the Only Option** - There is no other option than to sin, if the Holy Spirit hasn't 'turned you on' spiritually. (that's what slave to sin means).
- **Why Grace and Understanding is better than Judgment and Finger Pointing** - Everyone was once there and needs saving. No one is righteous, not even one.

- **The End Result**

- **The big problem.**

- Ephesians 2:3b - "and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

- **We were by nature...the rest of mankind** - the human condition - unplugged...
- **Children of wrath** - wrath is the judgment power of God that eradicates sin. All sin has to go. Either Jesus takes it out of us, or we get taken out to the trash.

- **Wrath and Salvation** - the bigger picture of what Jesus was rescuing us from.

Conclusion

- **The Reason we need a Savior is that we are in trouble.**
- **Once saved, we need to learn how to be a new identity** - more on that in coming weeks.
- **The Rescue on the Cross is a HUGE deal** - so is the Resurrection.
- **Salvation = Worship** - When we finally understand what Jesus is saving us from, the more worship seems natural and flows out.