

THE PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US

PART 1—WHEN WE WERE DEAD, GOD RESURRECTED US!

EPHESIANS 2:1-5

Introduction

Some folks doubt the love of God for them! (Give examples)

What God has done for us in Christ Jesus SHOULD BE enough to prove His love for us?

Christ dying on the cross of Calvary SHOULD BE all that is necessary for us to be able to say, "*I know that God loves me beyond any shadow of doubt*"?

Suppose for just a moment that God took all of your material things away. Think about almost all that you hold near and dear—your finances, your family, your health—wiped out in a short period of time. Would that make you think that God did not love you? (That happened in the life of Job!)

The Bible reveals that everything that God does or that He allows to happen in our lives is for a specific purpose or reason! God doesn't do anything without cause or purpose!

The song, "***Rejoice In The Lord***" by Ron Hamilton, begins with these words: "*God never moves without purpose or plan, when trying His servant and molding a man.*"

In our human flesh, we often look for God's love in the things that happen to us daily. There is nothing wrong with acknowledging God's love in the good things that happen.

However, sometimes when things aren't going very well we may look to God, and ask, "*Why are you letting this happen to me? I thought you said that you loved me!*" We may even think to ourselves, "*Well if God loves me He sure has a funny way of showing it.*"

We did the same thing to our parents as we were growing up! We questioned our parents love for us at times:

When they made us do chores when we would rather be out playing with our friends.

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When they made us go to school and Church when we'd rather stay home and do other things.

When they made us eat our vegetables when we would rather have cake or cookies.

When they disciplined us for our disobedience and wouldn't let us have our way.

Did they love us? I know that there might be some exceptions (some parents are just plain cruel), but most of our parents DID love us in spite of some of the seemingly unpleasant experiences that we had to endure from them.

Listen to me closely, God DOES love you and me! More than that, He has proved His love for us in such a way that His love for us should never be questioned! **I want us to examine some of the ways in which I believe that God proves His love for His children.**

PART I—WHEN WE WERE DEAD, GOD RESURRECTED US! (Vs 1-5)

I. THE FIRST FACT IS, BEFORE CHRIST CAME INTO OUR LIVES WE WERE DEAD! (VS 1; 5)

Before conversion man *lives a life of death*. I know that sounds like a contradiction. But note the words "*you...who were dead...*"

How can a man be physically living and yet be dead? To answer this question, we must understand what "**death**" really means.

The basic meaning of the word translated "**death**" is "**separation**."

We need to understand that **death** IS NOT THE SAME as *extinction, annihilation, non-existence, or inactivity*. **Death** simply means that a person is *separated*, either separated from his body or from God or from both.

H.S. Miller said, "*Death is the separation of a person from the purpose or use for which he was intended*" (quoted by Lehman Strauss, Devotional Studies in Galatians and Ephesians, p.137).

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Man was originally created to know, to fellowship with, to worship, and to serve God; but because of sin, man does not do it!

If he worships at all, he worships his own idea and concept of God, creating a god to suit his own notions—a god that will allow him to go ahead and live as he wishes!

The point is this: man **DOES NOT** (on his own) fulfil his purpose on earth—not the purpose for which he was created! He has little if anything to do with God! He is separated from and dead to God!

The Bible speaks of three types of death:

- A. **Physical Death.** (*Genesis 5:5ff—“...and he died.”*)
This is the separation of a man’s spirit from his body.

This is what we commonly call death. It is when a person ceases to exist on this earth and is either buried or cremated.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 “For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Hebrews 9:27—“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

- B. **Spiritual Death.**
This is the separation of a man from God even though he may be physically living and walking upon earth.

This is the natural state of a man on earth without Jesus Christ in his life! The man who is in his natural state is in his sins and **dead to God!**

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A person may walk in his physical life as an irreligious person—without God or Christ—rejecting, rebelling and cursing God! That man is spiritually separated from God; he is dead to God!

A person may walk in his physical life as a religious person—worshipping a god of his own thoughts and notions, but rejecting the only living and true God who was revealed by Jesus Christ! The religious person is also spiritually separated from God; he is also dead to God!

Spiritual death speaks of a person who is dead while he still lives!

He is a natural man living in this present world, but he is said to be dead to the Lord Jesus Christ and to God and to spiritual matters!

1. **A person who wastes his life in riotous living is spiritually dead!**
Luke 15:32—“It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.”
2. **A person who has not partaken of Christ is spiritually dead!**
John 6:53—“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you”
3. **A person who does not have the Spirit of Christ is said to be spiritually dead!**
Romans 8:9—“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

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4. A person who lives in sin is said to be spiritually dead! (Vs 1-3)

Colossians 2:13—“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”

5. A person who is alienated from God is said to be spiritually dead! (Ephesians 4:17-19)

6. A person who sleeps in sin is spiritually dead!

Ephesians 5:14—“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.”

7. A person who lives in sinful pleasure is dead while he lives!

1 Timothy 5:6—“But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”

8. A person who does not have the Son of God is dead!

1 John 5:12—“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

9. A person who does great religious works but does the wrong works is dead!

Revelation 3:1—“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”

So the Bible speaks of *Physical Death, Spiritual Death...*

C. Eternal Death.

Eternal death is the separation of man from God's presence forever!

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This what the Bible speaks of as the ***second death!***
It is an eternal state of being dead to God!

It is spiritual death, but it is separation from God that is prolonged beyond the death of the body! It is called the ***“second death” or “eternal death.”***

Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 8:6—“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

2 Thessalonians 1:9—“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

James 5:20—“Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

Ezekiel 18:20—“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

Revelation 20:14-15—“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 21:8—“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

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Every person who has **not** trusted Christ for salvation is **spiritually dead**—dead to God, spiritually dead even while they live physically upon this earth! (*John 3:18-Condemned*)

In fact, that was the **life of each of us** before we believed the Gospel!

We were unable to understand and appreciate spiritual things!
We could do nothing in and of ourselves to please God!
When we were without Christ, we weren't just sick, we were dead!

We did not need resuscitation, we needed resurrection!
And praise God, that is exactly what God gave us!!!
We were dead because of trespasses and sins~

THE FIRST FACT IS, BEFORE CHRIST CAME INTO OUR LIVES WE WERE DEAD!

II.

THE SECOND FACT IS BEFORE CHRIST CAME INTO OUR LIVES WE WERE DISOBEDIENT! (Vs 1-3)

Trespasses and sins were the very beginning of spiritual death for us!

When Adam and Eve CHOSE to believe the LIE of Satan rather than the TRUTH of God, they disobeyed God and died an immediate spiritual death!

And ever since that time, all of mankind has been both born in sin and has lived in disobedience to God!

A. We Came Into This World As Sinners By Nature!

Romans 5:12—“Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

B. We Continue In This World As Sinners By Choice!

Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

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III. THE THIRD FACT IS, GOD DELIVERED US FROM OUR DEATH THROUGH CHRIST! (Vs 1, 4-5)

We were delivered from death! What do you call that? Resurrection!

It says here that God has “*quickened*” us! What does that mean? “*Quickened*” means to make alive; to give life! God has made us alive in Christ Jesus!

Verse 4 says that **this is an expression of God's mercy and love toward us!**

According to **verse 5**, we were dead in our trespasses and sins and we were disobedient!

Every one of us were nothing but Hell bound and Hell deserving sinners!

We were headed for an eternity of torment, but Jesus stepped in and showed His great mercy and love for us!

As a person dead in sin, we were unable to respond to the will of God apart from God stepping in and doing something miraculous in our lives!

It matters not how much we may have thought that we wanted to perform the will of God, our condition of spiritual deadness prohibited us from doing so!

This love, mercy, and grace is not something that we could earn! It was God's gift! We were dead in sin! A dead man can't do anything to make himself alive again!

We had no TRUE feelings for God or His Son, but He made us alive unto Christ! He quickened us! We who are in Christ are no longer dead in sin, but alive in Christ!

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Colossians 2:13—“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”

Conclusion

God loves us! Don't doubt it! But rather believe it!

Satan wants us to believe that God doesn't love us! He wants us to blame God for **all** that is wrong with our lives! The truth of the matter is that Satan and sin are responsible for that!

God loves us! The proof of God's love is the cross of Calvary where Jesus gave His life for our sins and then He was buried in a borrowed tomb and on the third day after his death, He arose again so that we who were dead in our trespasses and sins could be made alive (i.e. we could be resurrected too!) by placing our faith and trust in His finished work!

Are you spiritually dead or alive today?

God has done all that He can do to give you life! You must have His life if you want to avoid that eternal death—that separation for all eternity from God and life in the Lake of Fire!

Won't you come and receive His life so that you can be quickened...so that you can be made spiritually alive...so that you can live with God for all eternity.

If you are saved today. Behold what manner of love that God has bestowed on us!

When we were dead, God resurrected us! And there is nothing that can separate us from the Love of God that is found in Christ Jesus!

Rejoice and be glad!