

The Pre-Conversion Condition of Humanity in Ephesians

By Armando Rodriguez

What does the book of Ephesians reveal about the pre-conversion condition of men?

We were dead in trespasses and sins

We walked according to the course of this world,

We walked according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

We conducted ourselves according to the lusts of our flesh,

We were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

We fulfilled the desires of the flesh and of the mind,

We were once Gentiles in the flesh

We were once called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands

We were once without Christ

We were once aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and

We were once strangers from the covenants of promise, having

We were once without hope and

We were once without God in the world.

We were afar off

You were strangers and foreigners

We walked in the futility of our mind

Our understanding was darkened

We were alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that was in us

Our heart was blind

We were past feeling

We gave ourselves over to lewdness,

We worked all uncleanness with greediness.

We were an old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts

We lived a lie.

The following were named among us:

- fornication
- all uncleanness or
- covetousness which is idolatry
- filthiness,
- foolish talking,
- coarse jesting,

We had no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

We were deceivers full of empty words.

The wrath of God was upon us

We were sons of disobedience

We were darkness

We produced unfruitful works of darkness

We did things in secret that are shameful to speak of

We walked like fools.

What does the book of Ephesians reveal about the post-conversion condition of men?

We have become recipients of grace

We have become recipients of peace

We can bless God

We have been blessed us with every spiritual blessing

We have been chosen in Him before the foundation of the world

We can become holy and without blame before Him

We have been **predestined** to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself

We have been made accepted in the Beloved

We have been **redeemed** through His blood,

We have been **forgiven** of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

The **mystery of His will** has been made known to men

We have **obtained an inheritance**,

We have been predestined

We can be to the praise of His glory.

We can believe and trust in him when we hear the word of truth, the gospel of salvation

We have been **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise,

We have been given the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

The eyes of our understanding have been enlightened that we may know what is the hope of His calling,

The eyes of our understanding have been enlightened that we may know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

The eyes of our understanding have been enlightened that we may know what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

We are His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

He made you alive,

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses,

He **made us alive together** with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and

He **raised us up together**, and

He **made us sit together** in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,⁷ that **in the ages to come** might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace we have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves;

We received salvation, the gift of God,

For we are His workmanship,

[we are] created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been

- a. brought near by the blood of Christ
- b. Christ has become our peace, who
- c. Christ has made us one
- d. He has broken down the middle wall of separation,
- e. He has abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as
- f. He has created in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,
- g. He reconciled them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

He came and preached peace to us

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are fellow citizens with the saints

Now, therefore, you are members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been

Now, therefore, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,

Now, therefore, you are being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Now, therefore, you are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

You have received the dispensation of the grace of God

You have received a revelation of His mystery

You understand knowledge in the mystery of Christ

You are fellow heirs, of the same body, and

You are partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

You can become ministers according to the gift of the grace of God given by the effective working of His power.

We have received grace and have the privilege to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ

By grace we can now see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God.

The manifold wisdom of God will be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,

We have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

We can be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith;

We are being rooted and grounded in love,

We can comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—

We can know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;

We can be filled with all the fullness of God.

We can walk worthy of His calling with all lowliness and

We can walk worthy of His calling with gentleness

We can walk worthy of His calling with longsuffering,

We can walk worthy of His calling by bearing with one another in love,

We can walk worthy of His calling by endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

He gave gifts to men ... He might fill all things.

- a. He Himself gave some *to be* apostles,
- b. He Himself gave some prophets,
- c. He Himself gave some evangelists, and
- d. He Himself gave some pastors and teachers,
- e. He gave them ...

We can now equip the saints

We can now do the work of ministry,

We can now edify the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

We can now speak the truth in love

We can grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

We are joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,

We can now work together toward the growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

But you have not so learned Christ,

- a. We can now hear Him
- b. We can now be taught by Him,
- c. The truth is in Jesus:

We can put off, concerning our former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts

We can become renewed in the spirit of our mind

We can put on the new man that was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

We can put away lying,

We can speak truth with our neighbor,”

We are members of one another.

We can “Be angry, and sin not”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

We can choose to not give place to the devil.

We can labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Words that are good for necessary edification flow out of our mouth. These words impart grace to the hearers.

We do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

We have put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking, with all malice.

We are kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

We can now be imitators of God as dear children.

We can walk in love, ... as Christ also has loved us

We can walk in the Light

We are light in the Lord.

We can walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

We can find out what is acceptable to the Lord.

We can expose the unfruitful works of darkness

We can awaken from our sleep

Christ has given us light.

We can walk in Wisdom

We can walk circumspectly

- redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We can understand what the will of the Lord *is*

We can be filled with the Spirit,

We can speak to one another

in psalms and

hymns and

spiritual songs,

singing and

We can make melody in your heart to the Lord,

We can give thanks always for all things

to God the Father

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

We can submitting to one another in the fear of God.^[e]

Wives can submit to their husband in everything as to the Lord

Husbands can love their wives as Christ also loved the church.

Husbands can give themselves for their wives

Husbands can love their wives as their own bodies

Husbands can love their wives as themselves.

Wives can respect their husbands.

Children can obey their parents in the Lord

Children can “Honor their father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”^[a]

Fathers can bring up their children in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Bondservants can be obedient to those who their masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

Masters have a master in heaven.

We can be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

We can put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We wrestle against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

We can take up the whole armor of God, and withstand in the evil day

We can gird our waist with truth

We can put on the breastplate of righteousness

We can shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace

We can take the shield of faith with which we will quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

We can put on the helmet of salvation

We can take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

We can pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

We can be watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints