

**“But God”**  
**Ephesians 2:1-6**  
**Sermon Series: “Be Rich”**

**Introduction:** Are people born good in a moral sense? Or are we some kind of blank slate molded by the environment around us? Or is Christian theology actually correct when it asserts that we have a sin nature that leads us to commit sinful acts? The way we answer these questions really shapes the way we view the world. So which view is correct? How do we know? I want to show you what the Bible says, give you some reasons to believe that what it claims is actually true, demonstrate why it matters, and show you God’s solution to our sinful brokenness.

**1. God’s Assessment Of Our Spiritual Condition (v. 1-3)**

**A. We are the walking dead (v. 1, Romans 6:23).** Apart from Jesus, we are separated from God and without spiritual life so we are walking around with physical life but dead on the inside.

**B. We are controlled by the world, the devil, and the flesh (v. 2-3).** The world is the system of this world’s values that opposes God. The devil spiritually controls those apart from Christ even if they are highly moral people. The flesh is our own sinful nature.

**C. We are disobedient (v. 2).** Sinners sin. That is our nature. We disobey God, and even when we do the right things our motive is often wrong. Also, a non-believer may be staying away from immoral things but is not worshipping God, which is the reason we are created. The greatest command is to love God so if we are not doing that we are living in sin, and we cannot say that we love God when we are rejecting His Son (2 John 9).

**D. We are under the wrath of God (v. 3, Romans 1:18, John 3:36).** The wrath of God is His settled, righteous, just anger toward sinners. His holiness compels Him to punish all sin. In other words, we are doomed on our own apart from Jesus.

**Reasons To Believe This Is True:**

**-Small children**

**-History/the news**

**-Socialism**

**-When I look at those I love**

**-When I look in the mirror**

**2. Why This Matters So Much**

Matt Chandler writes, “What made me love Christ wasn’t that all of a sudden I figured out how to do life. What made me love Christ is that when I was at my worst, when I was at my lowest point, when I absolutely could not clean myself up and there was nothing anybody could do with me, right at that moment, Christ said, ‘I’ll take that one. That’s the one I want.’ You know the Bible calls the church Christ’s bride. So it’s like standing before Jesus, completely exposed, all of our flaws and insecurities and—worse than that—our sins are right there in front of his face, and against all reason and rationale, the song of grace becomes startlingly, exhilaratingly true because the Groom looks at us and declares us beautiful. Spotless. Righteous. Justified. This is the gospel. It is important to admit, believers in Jesus, that Christians are not more moral than anyone else. The essence of the gospel and what we celebrate is not that ‘we can’ but that Christ did.”

**3. God’s Solution For Our Sinful And Broken Condition**

**A. “But God”—He graciously intervened (Romans 8:3)**

**B. He intervened because He is rich in mercy and greatly loves us even in our sinful and broken condition.**

**C. “Believers are made alive through a dynamic union with Christ, which has enabled them to participate in the benefits of Christ’s resurrection and exaltation” (Clinton Arnold).**

**D. He accomplished this gracious transformation through the cross.**

