

## **A Dwelling In Which God Lives**

Series: Sustainable Faith: Together

Ephesians 2 (1016)

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*Matthew 15:3, 8 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ... 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

### **I. Life before coming to Jesus Christ**

#### **a. Life driven by our cravings**

Ephesians 2:1-3a <sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

TM We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat.

#### **b. Life outside of God's favor**

Ephesians 2:3b Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

### **II. Life in the church as we often know it**

Ephesians 2:8 <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.

#### **a. Show up & be counted**

#### **b. Give God your Sunday am**

#### **c. Read and study the Bible**

#### **d. Give God your 10%**

Malachi 3:8-10 <sup>8</sup>"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

#### **e. Invest & engage while at church/home group**

#### **f. Focus on how the church can meet your needs**

### III. Life in the Kingdom of God

Ephesians 2:10, 18-22 <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. ... <sup>18</sup>For through him we both [Jew and Gentile,] have access to the Father by one Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

#### a. Grow up & make a difference

John 6:26 TM Jesus answered, "You've come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs—and for free.

#### b. Give God every moment

Romans 12:1 TM Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

#### c. Read, study and live the Bible

James 1:22 <sup>22</sup>Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

#### d. Submit all your possessions to God

Matthew 23:23-24 <sup>23</sup>"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

#### e. Invest & engage in the course of daily life

#### f. Focus on how you can serve in Jesus' name

Luke 22:27 I am among you as one who serves.