

“COME UP, GROW UP, & GET TO WORK! – Pt. 4”

["Grow Up!" Pt. 1 (Ephesians chapter 2)]

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INTRO: We're in a series of messages covering three primary themes in the book of Ephesians. You must Come Up (Eph. 2:6) to Grow Up, and you must Grow Up to effectively Get to Work. This morning we're going to work our way through chapter 2 in the first message focusing on **"Grow Up!"** (Eph. 4:15).

I. MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST (Eph. 2:1-10)

- A. Before you became a Christian, you were spiritually dead because of sin in your life (v. 1).
 - 1. You were born physically alive, but spiritually dead because of your sin nature that led you into sin.
 - 2. We've all sinned and the wages of that sin is spiritual death (Rom. 3:23; 1Jn. 1:8; Rom. 6:23).
- B. When you entrusted your life to Christ by faith, you were made alive spiritually (v. 1, 1:13; Rom. 6:23b).
- C. How you **once** walked (v. 2).
 - 1. According to the course of this world.
 - 2. According to the prince of the power of the air – the spirit who now works in the disobedient.
- D. How you **once** conducted yourself (v. 3).
 - 1. In the lusts of your flesh.
 - 2. Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind.
 - 3. Were by nature children of wrath.
- E. If you're in Christ, you're no longer dead **in** sin but dead **to** sin (Rom. 6:1-2, 6-7, 11-12)!
- F. You should no longer live as you **once** lived!
- G. When you were dead in sin, God (out of mercy & love) made you alive together with Christ (vv. 4-5).
- H. God raised you up and seated you with Christ (v. 6).
- I. God saved you by grace through faith (vv. 7-9).
- J. You're God's masterpiece, created for good works (v. 10). Not saved **by** works but **for** works!

II. MADE ONE IN CHRIST (2:11-18)

- A. Remember where you came from (vv. 11-12):
 - 1. Without Christ and God, without a spiritual inheritance and with no hope (v. 12).
- B. But now you are (vv. 13-18): in Christ, near God, with peace, one [new humanity] in Christ.
 - 1. To live out this reality you have to yield your past cultural identity to your spiritual identity!
 - 2. We have access to God (v. 18; 3:12; Heb. 4:16)

III. MADE A DWELLING PLACE IN CHRIST (2:19-22)

- A. You are now a fellow citizen and a member of the household of God (v. 19)! •**You belong!**
- B. The household of God is built on an apostolic and prophetic foundation with Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone (v. 20).
- C. The household of God is being joined together (fitted) to grow into a holy temple in the Lord (v. 21).
 - 1. **"Some assembly required!"** (Heb. 10:25)
 - 2. Believers are living stones in God's household to offer sacrifices of praise (1Pet. 2:5, 9; Heb. 13:15).
- D. The household of God is being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (v. 22)!
 - 1. We have to be **joined** (fitted) together before we can be **built** (edified) together!
 - 2. We are being prepared to become a holy habitation, not a visitation!
 - 3. We are this corporately, not individually!

CONCLUSION: We've been made alive in Christ (vv. 1-10), one in Christ (vv. 11-18) and a dwelling place in Christ (vv. 19-22)! It's time to **"Grow Up!"**