

Without God

Ephesians 2:1-6, 11-13

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- “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 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, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus... 11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Without God

- Christians occasionally become unfaithful to God and separate themselves from Him
 - James 4:4 - “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
- There will come a day when that separation will become absolute and permanent
 - John 5:28-29 - “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

God Does Not Want Anyone To Be Separated From Him

- Not in this world, nor in the world to come; therefore, God is more patient than humankind would be
- When Christians sin, they are unfaithful to God
 - Ez. 16:32 - “You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband.”
- If a person lived to the age of 80 years and only committed one sin per day from the age of accountability, God forgave him 25,000 times

God Does Not Want Anyone To Be Separated From Him

- God doesn't want anyone to be eternally lost
 - 1Tim. 2:3-4 - “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

God Does Not Want Anyone To Be Separated From Him

- God's desire for our salvation is so strong that He paid the greatest price.
 - John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

God Does Not Want Anyone To Be Separated From Him

- Rom. 5:6-10 - “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

God Must Separate Himself From Those Who Sin

- Though it is not His desire, God must separate Himself from evil because He is holy
 - Ex. 3:5 - “Then He said, Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”
 - Lev. 11:44-45 - “For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 45 For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

God Must Separate Himself From Those Who Sin

- 1Peter 1:14-16 - “As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

God Must Separate Himself From Those Who Sin

- No one is holy on his own; he must be cleansed by the blood of Jesus.
 - Rom. 3:10, 23 - “As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one ... 23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - 1Cor. 6:11 - “And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

God Must Separate Himself From Those Who Sin

- God is just, so He must keep His word and apply His law without favor to any, including Himself.
- God takes no pleasure in punishing His rebellious children
 - Ez. 33:11 - “Say to them: As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?”

God Must Separate Himself From Those Who Sin

- God must remain true to His nature
 - Deut. 32:4 - “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.”
 - Rom. 9:14 - “What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!”

God Must Separate Himself From Those Who Sin

- Justice demands punishment of all violators without partiality
 - Col. 3:25 - “But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”
- Failure to judge the wicked is unjust and discourages righteousness.

At Death, Separation From God Becomes Complete And Eternal

- Sin causes people to be spiritually dead and separated from God
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death...”
- Separation implies an adversarial relationship with God
 - Isa. 59:1-2 - “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”

At Death, Separation From God Becomes Complete And Eternal

- God wants to make alive again those who are dead
 - Eph. 2:1-5 - “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 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, made us alive together with Christ; by grace you have been saved”

At Death, Separation From God Becomes Complete And Eternal

- Renewed spiritual life is available only in Christ Jesus
 - Gal. 3:26-27 - “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- Baptism is the sign of the covenant that people of faith make with God.

At Death, Separation From God Becomes Complete And Eternal

- But those who die estranged from God remain so eternally
 - Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”
- Death seals our eternal destiny. Now is the time of mercy; in the Judgment comes justice.

Consequences Of Separation From God Are Worse Than Death

- Separation from God separates one from the best of what God gives to His children
 - James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

Consequences Of Separation From God Are Worse Than Death

- Separation from God separates one from light, because God is light
 - 1John 1:5-6 - “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”
 - Rev. 22:5 - “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light”

Consequences Of Separation From God Are Worse Than Death

- The reason why there is no light in hell: God is not there.
 - 2Peter 2:17 - “These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”
 - Matt. 25:30 - “And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
 - Jude 13 - “Raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”

Consequences Of Separation From God Are Worse Than Death

- Separation from God means that one is separated from love; there will be no love in hell because God is love, and He does not visit hell.
 - 1John 4:16 - “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

Without God

- God has gone to extremes to keep people from suffering separation from Him in this world and the one to come.
 - He has shown more patience than any man would have shown.
 - He has provided a way for all men to be reconciled to Him.
 - He has prepared a place for humankind to spend eternity with Him.

Without God

- John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”
- 1Peter 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
- 2Cor. 6:2 - “...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”