

Made New: From Death to Life

Week of June 14, 2026

READ:

Ephesians 2:1-10 ; Romans 3:23 ; Romans 6:23 ; 2 Corinthians 5:17 ; Matthew 26:31-35 ;
Isaiah 52:14 ; Isaiah 53:3-10 ; Matthew 27:45-46 ; 1 Peter 2:23-24

KEY POINTS:

- We Were Spiritually Dead - Sin is not merely a mistake or bad habit—it separates us from God and leaves us spiritually dead. Every person stands equally in need of God's grace, regardless of background, status, or outward appearance.
 - God's Mercy and Grace Rescued Us - The turning point of the gospel is “But God.” While justice gives us what we deserve, mercy withholds what we deserve, and grace gives us what we do not deserve. Salvation is God's work from beginning to end.
 - Grace Changes Us - God's grace is not permission to continue in sin. Like the prodigal son who was welcomed home, genuine grace transforms our hearts, changes how we think, and reshapes how we live.
 - We Are Made Alive in Christ - Through faith in Jesus, we receive a new identity. We are no longer defined by our sin, shame, failures, or past—we are alive in Christ and made new.
 - Jesus Carried the Weight of Our Sin - The cross reveals both the seriousness of our sin and the depth of God's love. Jesus bore our guilt, shame, and rebellion so that we could be forgiven, healed, and brought into new life.
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QUESTIONS:

1. Paul says that apart from Christ we were spiritually dead, following the world, our sinful desires, and the enemy (Ephesians 2:1-3). Why is it important to understand the depth of our spiritual condition before we can fully appreciate God's grace? What happens when we minimize our sin?

2. Looking back at your life before Christ, or at seasons when you were far from Him, what influences most shaped your thinking, decisions, and priorities? How does that compare to the life God calls us to now?
 3. Some people see grace as permission to live however they want, while others treat it as something that must continually be earned. How does the gospel correct both of those misunderstandings?
 4. If salvation is entirely a gift of God's grace and not something we can earn (Ephesians 2:8-9), what does it look like to live from a place of acceptance rather than constantly trying to prove yourself to God?
 5. Ephesians 2:10 says we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. How does understanding that you are already loved and accepted by God change the way you pursue obedience, holiness, and service?
 6. What is one area of your life where God may be inviting you to more fully embrace your identity in Christ and walk in the new life He has already given you?
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LIFE APPLICATION:

- Remember Your Story - Spend time this week reflecting on where God has brought you from. Thank Him specifically for rescuing you from spiritual death and making you alive in Christ.
 - Live from Your New Identity - When you face temptation, shame, or discouragement, remind yourself: "I am not who I was. I am alive in Christ." Let your identity shape your choices.
 - Bring Your Burdens to the Cross - Take time in prayer to honestly name areas of sin, guilt, fear, or brokenness. Remember that Jesus already carried those burdens on your behalf.
 - Extend Grace to Others - Just as God showed you mercy and grace, look for an opportunity this week to forgive, encourage, serve, or show grace to someone who may not deserve it.
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PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving us when we were dead in our sins. Thank You for Your mercy that withheld the judgment we deserved and for Your grace that gave us the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Help us never forget what You have rescued us from. Teach us to live in the freedom, joy, and new identity You have given us. When we are tempted to carry shame or define ourselves by our past, remind us that we are alive in Christ and made new.

Give us hearts that reflect Your grace to others and lives that honor the One who gave everything for us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.