

Ephesians: From Death to Life
Clash of Worldviews
Ephesians 1:1-2; Acts 19:1-40

There was a time in our society when most people understood what it meant to believe in God. It isn't that everyone believed in God or even believed in Him at the same levels of commitment to certain convictions. But even those who did not believe in God understood that those who believed were supposed to be driven by convictions that were different from an atheistic or secular worldview.

Because of our position (who we are in Christ):

1. We now have a new life in Christ.
2. We now have a new community in Christ.

Because of our practice (how we are to live in Christ):

1. We must now pursue unity and purity in Christ.
2. We must now pursue submissiveness and stability in Christ.

Our joy will not come from the materialism that this world offers. It will not come from the tolerant attitudes that this world demands. Our joy will come from seeing the gospel take root in the lives of people. It will only come from seeing the gospel create change that could only be credited to the power of God. It will come when we embrace our identity in the new life we have in Christ and begin practicing the new ethic that identity requires.

Reflection

How were the challenges faced by the Ephesian church similar to what we face today? How does Paul describe the church in the book of Ephesians? How is that different from the way people describe the church today? How do you view the church and its role in your life? Is the church something you just seem to consume or is it the mechanism by which you serve the kingdom? If you were going to describe the bare minimum regarding what makes a church, a church, what would those bare minimums be? Does your list of bare minimums reflect a biblical view of church or a cultural view of church? Take some time to read through Ephesians 1-3 and then summarize those chapters in just two to three sentences. Do the same for chapters 4-6.