

WHAT WE REALLY ARE APART FROM JESUS CHRIST

A. Before we were saved, we were 'dead in transgressions and sins' [2:1,5].

1. Write out the key words or phrases from these verses which communicate the truth about our spiritual deadness and inability.

Reference	Key phrase expressing spiritual deadness
Matthew 13:13-15	
Matthew 15:14	
John 3:3-8	
John 6:44,65	
John 8:43	
John 14:17	
John 15:5b	
Romans 1:21	
Romans 5:6	
Romans 5:16-18	
Romans 6:17-18	
2 Corinthians 4:4	
Ephesians 4:17-19	
Colossians 1:13	
Hebrews 11:6	

We read in these references about blindness, darkness, hardness of heart and mind, enslavement, inability to understand, condemnation, impossibility of pleasing God, powerlessness, and the like. These all inform us about the 'deadness' in which we are bound by our sin.

B. Before we were saved, we 'followed the ways of this world' [2:2].

2. Read the references below and write out in your own words what they say about the ways of this world.

Reference	What it says about the ways of this world
Luke 12:29-30	
John 3:19	
John 7:7	
John 14:17	
John 15:18,19	

What it says about the ways of the world

John 17:25

Galatians 4:3

2 Peter 1:4

1 John 2:16

1 John 3:1

2 John 7

The two dominant aspects of the ways of the world are ignorance of the true God and corruption of life. The entire Bible witnesses to the partnership of these two. Read Romans 1:18-32 to understand how suppression of the knowledge of God results in a corrupt lifestyle. This, Paul states in Ephesians 2:2, is where and what we once were before Christ saved us.

C. Before we were saved, we followed the ways of Satan [2:2].

Before we were saved, not only did we live in accordance with the ways of the world, we also lived according to the ways of Satan, here described as 'the ruler of the kingdom of the air' and 'now at work in those who are disobedient.' This pervasive conformity to the devil's ways is referred to several times in the New Testament.

3. Check out these references and write in what they teach us about the influence of Satan in the world.

Reference	What it teaches about Satan's influence in the world
John 12:31	
John 14:30	
John 16:11	
2 Corinthians 4:4	
Ephesians 6:12	
1 John 4:3	
1 John 4:4	
Revelation 12:9	
Revelation 13:3	

This conformity to the ways of Satan includes not only the overt wickedness, but all false religions, and all human pride in which we think that by our own actions we can merit the favor of God.

We must be careful here that we do not blame Satan for our conformity to his ways; he is the 'god' or 'prince' of this world not because he has forced our allegiance but because we, the inhabitants of the world, duped by his deceptions, *chose* allegiance to him, believing him rather than God, imitating him, rather than imaging God. God will bring Satan to his just end, but God holds each human being responsible for his/her own sin.

Source: <https://www.godswordforyou.com/bible-studies/ephesians/46-study-three-the-incredible-impact-of-salvation-ephesians-21-10.html>