

TWO WAYS TO LIVE

TWO WAYS TO LIVE: STEP 5

Ephesians 2:1-13

OUTLINE

1. CREATION – REBELLION – JUSTICE – JESUS – RESURRECTION – CHOICE
2. Ends with a question
3. No sitting on the fence / neutral space
4. Mechanics are incomplete & insufficient
5. God's love runs throughout
6. Choice is love/regret
7. God gives the Holy Spirit
8. God gives us family
9. Ephesians 2:1-13 – WOW
10. The Christian life is attractive
11. Have we reached a plateau?
12. How can we know / love God better?

1. CREATION – REBELLION – JUSTICE – JESUS – RESURRECTION – CHOICE

2. The Two Ways to Live illustration **ends with the question** – what are you going to do? A choice between remaining in rebellion and asking God’s forgiveness.
3. There’s **no sitting on the fence** – it’s not that at some future point we’ll be faced with a choice. We live in one choice, and need to choose to change. Also affects how we raise our kids.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. (John 3:17-18)

4. But this illustration focuses on **“mechanics”**. What God’s done, what we’ve done, and the consequences. That’s **incomplete and insufficient**.
 - a. Theological statements / doctrinal bases / etc. – often written to protect a church or movement from slipping into error. They have a place, but they often make the same mistake.
 - b. Example – *READ*
5. “Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy...” and John’s statement: God is love. **God’s love runs all the way through** the events we’ve looked at:
 - a. Loving God creates humanity in a beautiful world to share his love with them.
 - b. Even when mankind rebels, God doesn’t destroy them, because he loves them.
 - c. Death is given as a mercy – as we saw. The alternative was to be forever estranged from God, and he makes a way out.
 - d. And then, in love, God makes a way IN – through Jesus on the cross. For God so loved the world...
 - e. In love, Jesus shares his resurrection with us, and intercedes for us!
6. When we present people with the choice, it’s **not just the choice between judgment and forgiveness** – it’s the choice between living in the most perfect love, or rejecting it and forever wishing you hadn’t. [mention *No Time To Die* Bond film?]
7. More than that, **God gives the Holy Spirit** – the choice is to know God and live with him now and later, or to keep ignoring him and pretending he’s not there. The inside track and being part of the solution, or ignorance and irresponsibility.
8. More than that, **God gives us earthly family** – the choice is to be part of a family who leave nobody out that wants to join, which unites people across age, race, culture, background, economic standing, life experience. A family with a perfect Father, always faithful, wise, just, true. The choice is - do you want to be part of that family?
9. **Ephesians 2:1-13** – love and mercy – made alive – given status – trophies of kindness – purpose – community
10. The **Christian life is attractive** – do we believe that? Do we believe that the life Jesus offers is the absolute best life there ever could be for any human this side of eternity?
11. Challenge for us – **has our love for the Lord reached a plateau?** Are we happy with that, or are we determined to know him and love him more?
 - a. How do friends deepen their friendship? Sometimes involuntarily through shared hardship or pain, but also through intentional choices: holidaying together, training for a marathon, ...
 - b. Couples too – take up dancing / hobby, adventures or business ventures, learn a language
12. **What can/will we do to intentionally know and love God better?**