

THE WALKING DEAD

Fred Newman

Most everyone has at least heard of the popular television series entitled "The Walking Dead." The program focused on a group of survivors of a zombie apocalypse who were trying to stay alive under a constant threat of attack from zombies known as "walkers."

Did you know that the Bible speaks of people who are among the "walking dead?"

The Holy Spirit, in discussing the care of widows, described some widows as dead while they live. *"Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives"* (1st Timothy 5:5-6). What is meant by this statement? How can a person be dead while they are alive?

It's obvious that the context does not have reference to one who is physically dead while being alive. This is an impossibility! Therefore, one must search other Scriptures to find what is meant by *"dead while she lives."*

The Spirit actually explained this concept as Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus: *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 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, 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. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)"* (Ephesians 2:1-5).

The apostle's statement suggests yet another question. What does it mean to be *"dead in... sins?"* In order to answer this query one must consider the strict definition of the word "dead." This word simply means "separation." Physical death is the separation of the body and the spirit.

Jehovah explained the spiritual state of being dead in sin: *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your*

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God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity" (Isaiah 59:1-4).

One severs the relationship with God by committing sin. This is referred to as being *"dead in sin."* God pronounced the penalty for sin: *"For the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23).

So, it is possible for an individual to walk around alive in this physical realm while at the same time being dead spiritually.

The ultimate penalty for sin is eternal separation from God, which John described in the book of Revelation as *"the second death"* (Revelation 21:8). However, God in His love and mercy has made a way for those who are spiritually dead to be made alive spiritually. This spiritual resurrection can only occur through Jesus Christ.

Notice again the words of the Spirit: *"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)"* (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Paul described how this process occurs: *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life"* (Romans 6:3-4).

When one is baptized he is baptized into the death of Jesus Christ. Just as Christ arose from the dead, this individual will be raised from the waters of baptism with a new spiritual life.

God tells us that when one is buried with Christ in baptism that this individual is resurrected to a new spiritual life (relationship with God). This person may die physically, but Jesus said that they will continue to live spiritually. Jesus said, regarding this spiritual life, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die"* (John 11:25-26).

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"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER"

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's/Women's Studies
@ 6:30 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belen, New Mexico

"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN ANY TRESPASS... RESTORE SUCH A ONE"

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

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The Holy Spirit describes those who are "the walking dead." These are people who are alive physically but dead to God - separated from Him spiritually. On the other hand, Jesus spoke of "the living dead" - those who die physically but reap the benefits of the sacrifice of Jesus: eternal life.

Are you among those who are walking around "dead in sin?" Or have you been raised to new life with Christ Jesus through baptism? Jesus said of those who live faithfully in this relationship, "Though he may die, he shall live!"

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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"THE SECRET THINGS"

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Religions that thrive on secrecy are, by that very fact, deceptive, and, thus, ought to be rejected outright. One church refused, for centuries, to let its members read the Scripture in their own language, regarding it a threat to their power structure for laymen to have direct access to God's word. Another church conducts elaborate ceremonies behind closed doors that only certain high-ranking members are permitted to partake in, witness, or even be aware of. These practices contradict the openness of serving the Lord as His word indicates.

"The secret things belong to Jehovah our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). God reserves certain knowledge to Himself that may not be known to humanity, but what is revealed to humanity is revealed to everyone, not just certain classes.

In the New Testament, Paul stated, *"By revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets"* (Ephesians 3:3-5). Even what was once mysterious during the previous covenant has been unveiled, and it can be accessed simply. All who are willing to read Scripture have access to every bit of knowledge possessed by the apostles, which is "all truth" (John 16:13).

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