

SIT STAND WALK SIT STAND

INTRO

What is the most favorite job you've ever had? Why did you like it so much? If you've hated all of your jobs, then name your least favorite.

DISCUSSION

1. Ephesians 2:1 says "you were dead in your transgressions and sins." What do you think about this? What does Paul mean that we were dead? How metaphorical is he being? How have you experienced the ability of sin to make you spiritually dead?
2. Mike quotes a mentor who says that "we are most human when we are most holy," meaning we are most free when we are most obedient. What are your thoughts on this statement? How might this perspective change the way we view obedience to God?
3. Respond to the CS Lewis quote: "When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse he understands his own badness less and less."
4. Mike mentions the concept of Moral Therapeutic Deism, the idea that God exists but he's distant from people's lives, and mostly is there to make us feel better about ourselves. Based on the sermon, how does this differ from the Gospel message presented in Ephesians? Have you encountered this mindset in your own life or in others?
5. Focus on verses 8 and 9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." In light of these verses, discuss the difference between the two equations. Salvation = Faith + Works (the wrong answer) on one hand and Faith = Salvation + Works (the right answer) on the other. How might fully embracing this truth change someone's approach to their faith?
6. Mike describes a Christian as someone who lives in the "dark zone of the Venn diagram" - affirming Christ's claims and embracing Him as savior, while also trying to love and serve others. That is, faith and works. How does this definition compare to someone else's understanding of what it means to be a Christian? Does it challenge or confirm your views?

APPLICATION

What ways are you currently growing your knowledge of God? What ways can you allow the "Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (vs. 17) help you grow in your knowledge of God?

