**7/7/24 How Much Difference is There Between Those in the Church and**

 **Those in the World? Ephesians 2:1-10**

* Those in the church should be called out to be different from those in the world.
* Those dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things.
* Those controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.
* The things that Satan entices us to think of as freedom invariably end up damaging us, our relationships, and our future.

**Jeremiah 17:9-10; Romans 6, 8:5; John 10:10; 1 John 4:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-3**

**1. The Life without Christ.**

* Paul reminds us that we were once dead and doomed forever because of our many sins.
* Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden because they disobeyed God’s command not to eat of the fruit in the middle of the Garden.
* We all use to live and follow the passions and desires of our evil nature.
* Even though we were dead because of our sins, God loved us so much He gave us life through His grace.

**Ephesians 2:1-5; Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 5:8**

**2. Thank God for His Spirit!**

* We should evaluate our lives to see if we are dominated by the sinful nature or by the Spirit.
* We must ask God to allow His Spirit to shape our lives to reflect His righteousness and mercy.
* The spirit and the flesh are two forces that are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict.
* The Spirit gives us the power to live with freedom, enjoying a life full of His fruit.

**Galatians 5:16-18, 22-26**

**3. We have been given the power to overcome temptation and sin.**

* You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate, but the highway to hell is broad and the gate is wide and many choose that way.
* Paul tells us that we have no obligation whatsoever to do what our sinful nature urges us to do.
* Those with a past entrapment to sinful addictions, current struggles and other problems don't have to repeat the destructive patterns in which they have been entrapped.
* Jesus described our battle as denying ourselves daily, following Him, and losing our lives for His sake.

**Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 8:12-14; Ephesians 1:17-20, 2:6-10, 3:14-21; Colossians 3:5; Luke 9:23-26**