

Types of Happiness:

- Superficially happy
- Vicariously happy
- Forgetfully happy
- Deceptively happy

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter by the **narrow gate**. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is **hard** that leads to life, and those who find it are **few**.”

Ephesians 1:23 (NTFE)

The church is His body; it is the **fullness** of the One who **fills all in all**.

LIFE IN CHRIST

- Find **fullness in the fullness** of God.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit** that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the **passions of our flesh**, carrying out the **desires** of the flesh and the **mind**, and were **by nature** children of **wrath**, like the rest of mankind.

1) A **sobering assessment of ‘self’ --**

- Gravity prevents superficiality
- Clarity is part of the kindness of God

The prince and our passions:

- Minimize
- Normalize

Ephesians 2:4

But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love** with which he loved us ...

2) A dramatic change **in focus from self to God.**

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love** with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were **dead** in our trespasses, made us alive together **with** Christ—**by grace** you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up **with** him and seated us **with** him **in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus

3) Great and profound **astonishment** at God and our **“lot” with Him** in Christ.

Ephesians 2:7

... so that in the **coming ages** he might show the **immeasurable** riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Job 26:14

Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?”

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by **grace** you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹**not** a result of works, so that **no one may boast**.

4) Embrace of **humility** as not only **necessary but virtuous**.

God’s **grace**—more than our sin—**humbles the most**.

Humility Removes Burdens:

- **Pride: *prove, perform, protect, promote***
- **Pretending: *hiding; appearing***

Ephesians 2:10

For we are **his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should **walk** in them.

5) Walk out the **miracle** → Expression vs. Repression

Ephesians 2:11-13

Therefore **remember that at one time** you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time **separated** from Christ, **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** to the covenants of promise, having **no hope and without God** in the world. ¹³**But now** in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the **blood of Christ**.

Reminder:

The blood of Christ is ever in **evidence** and is the **currency** eternally accepted at the Throne!