



The early church existed to do one thing and that was to reach lost people with the **gospel** – to move people to **life** in Christ. That was and that still is the church's **purpose**.

God's blueprint for the church's relationship with the world is that we be able to demonstrate to our society that God **saves** people from sin. And the primary way we do that is with a saved **life**.

Verses 1-2

In order for us to have a proper Christian response to and in a pagan society, we must remember our **former condition**.

Verse 3

foolish – without knowledge, without understanding, completely **ignorant**: we didn't know what we were **doing**. Ephesians 4:18

disobedient – to **God** and, as a consequence – to all authority instituted by God

deceived – having no **anchor**, nothing holds us down, nothing qualifies our lives, nothing quantifies our lives, we just lived by what we **felt**

enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures – **lusts** – desires for what is forbidden or in a manner that is forbidden, we lived for what made us **feel** good

in malice and envy – malicious **wickedness** that wants to hurt or harm or take at any price; ill will that wants to **consume** others

being hated and hating one another – so **self-centered** that we hate anyone who is an obstacle or problem or who disagrees with us or stands in our way or takes issue with us. The ultimate agenda of fallen man – fallen us – is **pride** and pride **isolates** us from everybody else.

Whether you were a small child when you were saved or an adult and before you begin thinking “I wasn't like that” – yes you were or you **would have been**.

Not only is a right view of our **past** necessary for a proper **response** to our world, it is also necessary for a right view of **salvation** which is the only hope for our world.

Verses 4-7

Salvation was **initiated** by God.
He **saved** us.
Because of His **mercy**.

Can you look at our society and simply say, “They are that way because God has not yet **saved** them. I'm the way I am because He has saved me.”? That is the perspective we **must** have.

God's blueprint for His church's response to a pagan society requires us to see **salvation** as the only hope for our world and our **lives** as God's plan to reach them.