

Ephesians: Living as New Creations

Ephesians 4:17-24

The Old Life (v. 17-19)

- Paul's admonition is to walk/life differently than we used to
- The call to not walk like Gentiles is a reference to those who do not know Christ
 - Remember that he is speaking to both Jewish and Gentile converts
- This old life is defined by futile minds
 - Futile: devoid of truth; perverse
- Our actions are based in our understanding of the truth
- Thus, before Christ, we were:
 - Darkened in our understanding
 - Ignorant of God
- Resulting in alienation from real life
 - Hard-hearted
- Resulting in shameless, unfettered, sinful desires

The Renewal (v. 20-24)

- The change that God wants to bring in us starts on the inside
- It begins with learning Christ
 - Not just learning about Jesus
 - But learning how to be more like Jesus
- Change continues with a desire to get rid of the old
 - Realizing that the old ways of thinking are based in lies (v. 22)
- Then takes root as God renews our minds (v. 23)
 - Learning how to think all over again (Rom. 12:2)

The Progression

- Living differently begins with thinking in a new way
- Christ in us transforms our thinking
 - Which transforms our desires
 - Which transforms our actions

So What?

- Change happens from the inside out
- Are we letting God renew our minds?
 - Which leads to changed actions
- Are we letting Christ rule in us?

Meditation Verse: Ephesians 4:22-24