Developing a Christian Lifestyle

Ephesians 4:17–24

INTRODUCTION

- Remember who your father is. And that would not be indicating remember who your dad is in his name, but more so meaning the idea remember the family that you belong to.
- I therefore a prisoner for the Lord urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you've been called.
- After thinking through your identity, now he's going to talk about your conduct. You know who you are. Let's talk about what you're to do.

1 No Longer Walk as the Gentiles Do

Ephesians 4:17

- Since we belong to Christ, this charge is you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do.
- The idea of the word walk itself refers to this whole course of your life, your habits, your overall lifestyle, the choices you make, the thoughts you entertain, the behavior you exhibit.
- Christ does more than change where you spend your Sunday morning. He changes the direction of your life.

2 The Futility of Their Minds

Ephesians 4:17; Luke 12

- Before Paul talks about behavior, he talks about your thinking. Because eventually we live according to the way that we think.
- Jesus said, teaching us in that text, that guy was foolish because the Lord required his life of him that night.
- Whenever God's not in those questions, our thinking becomes futile. Aimless.
- You can spend your whole life climbing and eventually discover that the ladder was leaning against the wrong wall all along.

3 Darkened in Understanding, Alienated From God

Ephesians 4:18; John 3:19; John 14:6

- This is the judgment. The light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.
- Sometimes people don't see because they simply don't know, but sometimes people don't see because they don't want to see.
- This is talking about someone specifically who's disconnected from the source of life itself.
- Yet something fundamental is broken because you as the creature are living apart from the creator.

4 Callous, Given Up to Sensuality and Impurity

Ephesians 4:19

- You do something long enough, eventually what was once soft is going to become hard to where you no longer feel the sensation. The same thing can happen spiritually.
- What used to bother you? That doesn't bother you anymore. We should want hearts that remain tender before God.
- There's a huge difference between being tempted by something and giving yourself up to something.
- Sin promises satisfaction, but what it's going to do is keep pushing satisfaction further and further and further away from you.

5 That Is Not the Way You Learned Christ

Ephesians 4:20–21

- He doesn't say that they learned about Christ. He says that they learned Christ.
- Learning Christ means that his teaching begins to shape the way that you manage your life.
- So, what does love look like? Look at Jesus. What does purity look like? Look at Jesus.
- I've got to remain teachable. I have to be willing to let Jesus tell me whenever I'm wrong and I accept it in a way that's humble.

6 Put Off the Old Self, Put On the New Self

Ephesians 4:22–24; Romans 12:2

- Put off the old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and it is corrupt through deceitful desires.
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.
- And eventually when the mind changes direction, guess what happens? Life changes direction.
- Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God and true righteousness and holiness.

THE CHALLENGE

What from my old life am I still putting back on? What pair of dirty jeans keeps finding its way back into my spiritual wardrobe and is just a thorn in my thigh?

MY NOTES