

April 23, 2016

Ephesians 4: 17-24

In Christ a new humanity is formed. Those who live in the new humanity do not live disoriented, futile lives but instead have hope in Christ. God has the power to bring us from darkness into the light; however, we must make a willful decision to choose the light and to avoid living separate from God. A transformation of the heart takes place when our lives are given to Christ; living outside of Christ can cause hearts to harden and become calloused. It is our responsibility as Christians to choose to find our hope and happiness in God or we will seek pleasure in empty places.

Questions

1. Paul says that those that live of the world, without Christ, are hopelessly confused. They do not have any sense of true direction in their lives and are characterized by chaos. How do you see this playing out in our society today?
2. Read through Ephesians 4: 21-24. Paul talks of throwing off your old sinful nature and putting on your new nature "created to be like God." Are there areas of your life that you can clearly distinguish your old sinful nature from your new godly nature? Are there areas of your life that you have struggled to shed your sinful nature?
3. Bill talks of transitions in our life and how they expose new or unknown sinful nature. Think of a major transition you have gone through in your life. What "new" sins did you discover in yourself and how did you respond to that discovery?
4. Bill says that many of us try to bargain with God by bringing God to us instead of us going to God. Think of a time you tried to bargain with God.....how did that turn out? On the contrary, can you think of a time that you went to God first instead of trying to bargain with Him? How were those results different?