



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"EPHESIANS 4:17-24" ON OCTOBER 6-9, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 4:17-24

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 4:17-24 In these verses Paul challenges the Ephesian Christians to examine themselves: **Have they truly 'put off old patterns of sin' and 'put on the new self' created when they surrendered their lives to Christ? How should living as Christ followers look different from the way non-Christians live? This is a real challenge, and it is easier said than done, but it impacts the unity of the body of Christ!**

SOME THINGS TO PONDER AS AN OVERVIEW:

- Has there been something in your life that may have changed the course of your life or caused a shift – a change of mindset, a behavior, a purpose? Describe that experience and your response to it.
- Are you REALLY pursuing Jesus? Can others see that in your life? What does pursuing Jesus mean for your life?

GENTILE/CHRIST FOLLOWER: Paul differentiates between the unbelieving Gentile and the one who is in Christ.

- How does Paul differentiate between the lives of the unbelieving Gentile and the one who is in Christ – what defines the progression of choices and outcomes that describe the paths of each way of living?
- Paul uses these terms to refer to the mindset of the Gentile – 'futility of their thinking'.....'darkened in their understanding'....'ignorance due to the hardening of their hearts.' What do these terms mean to you, and where have you seen them creeping into your own life or in the lives of others around you?
- How do you see the patterns of callousness/resulting sensuality/greed driving peoples' lives today, both on a personal and cultural level? How can a Christ-follower reach out to a friend who is caught up in that cycle?
- Have you experienced a time when you were numbed to the Spirit's conviction? How can you seek to prevent the hardening of your own heart when your focus is challenged?

OLD SELF/NEW SELF: What does humility have to do with this?

- What does it mean to you to have 'learned Christ?' How does that play out in the way you live your life?
- How well are you consistently focusing on living a new life in Christ? What old patterns/parts of your old self continue to slip back into your mind/choices, and how do you respond to that?
- Paul describes the new self as being 'created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness;' how does that encourage you, challenge you, and give you hope in your walk with Jesus?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.