

Living in the Identity of the New Humanity Ephesians 4:17-32

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

To be transformed is to become who you actually are.

vs. 17, I insist on it. In every aspect of life...
No longer walk as the Gentiles do.

You were (**vs. 18-19**).

Identity ->the way you behave is generated and flows out of who you think you are.
The kind of value you think you have or don't have will inform your behavior.
What is it that make you who you are?

Before Jesus, if left to ourselves, we are self-determined experts, darkened in understanding, obstinate, filled with folly, and alienated (separated) from God.

Callous -> Life has a way of hardening our hearts. We become tainted (withdrawn or become aggressive).

Losing sensitivity to evil -> getting to a place that is clearly destructive (morally, personally) but shrugs it off as no big deal

vs. 20, Learned Christ (Encountering Jesus)
Welcoming Jesus as the living, sacrificial, resurrected Savior!
Allowing his teaching to penetrate your soul.

When you hear the story of Jesus it is a truth that invades your reality.
The gospel informs us of our inadequacy.

And yet, God has made a decision to love us and commit himself to us despite our deep flaws, failures, and brokenness.

Now you are...
Who you are has changed!
You are something else. You
are now part of the new humanity.

Ephesians 2:6, 15 raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

vs. 21, heard about him and were taught in him
The truth is in Jesus.
Every part of your being proclaims the gospel.

vs. 22, Put off - disrobe / remove your old self (humanity).
It is corrupt because of deceit.
That is what sin does -> It lies!

Sin twists basic human desires as ultimate ends to themselves.
Chasing after the illusion of water in the desert.

vs. 23, Be renewed in the spirit of your minds

vs. 24, Put on - the new humanity

Created in the likeness of God.

The version of you that is created to perfectly reflect the image of God.

The version of you that accurately reflects the holiness, goodness, righteousness and love of God.

Who am I? (Am I known? Does anyone care?)

In light of the gospel, who am I? You are new kinds of humans.

The gospel rebuilds your view of self. It renews your mind.

Deeply loved

Romans 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Adopted

Romans 8:15 (CSB) For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"

God's Children

John 1:12 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Heirs

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Beloved

1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Saint

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Belonging to God

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Friends of Jesus

John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants,[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Jesus is truth. By Grace you have been saved through Faith (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

Transformation -> made new in righteousness and holiness.

We own our brokenness and release control to a God who has revealed the richness of his mercy, the abundance of his steadfast love and the immeasurable riches of his grace.

Sin doesn't get the last word.

Our sin and guilt and even death itself which is part our world does not have power over Jesus' love and grace.

Jesus is alive. He conquered death.

We are a community of people that believe these truths through the actions of our lives (together).

In this new humanity we...

- speak the truth.
- don't sin in our anger (relationships matter).
- work hard (no theft of time, things, dignity) which produces generosity.
- no rotten speech. Instead, build up, give grace to those who hear you.

After others interact with you they walk away full, encouraged, delighted, and lifted up.

The health of my personal relationships is one of the clearest indicators of a transformed life.

vs. 27, Give no opportunity for the devil. The powers want to snare you. So many traps have been set.

vs. 30, Continue to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Jesus working with us in the re-shaping of our character.

Tender

Malleable

vs. 31, Let these (old realities) be put away from you.

You - plural -> this new community / family / humanity

Bitterness

Anger

Clamor - shouting

Slander

Malice - wickedness

Instead

Be kind to one another

tenderhearted

forgiving one another

As God in Christ forgave you. Remember you are forgiven!

Zacchaeus

Woman (caught in adultery)

Cornelius (vision, nations, Peter)

Mary & Martha

Saul (Paul)

Paralytic (Carried by Friends)

A Father's love for his tormented Son.

Nicodemus

Woman of Samaria

New Humanity ->

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The story of the cross - an act of love.

Question: Each day are you putting on the identity that has been given to you by God through Jesus? How are you encouraging the community that is living out this new humanity? Am I investing in healthy relationships? At the end of each day has my tenderness toward truth and my love for others increased?