

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 5 March 2023



EPHESIANS

Old & New
Ephesians 4:17 - 5:21

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:17 - 5:21

OVERVIEW

Paul emphasizes maturity in this part of the letter, with the aim of helping the church understand that the gospel transforms every aspect of our lives. Our salvation is not only for the purpose of getting into heaven, allowing us to live however we please now because it doesn't matter. Instead, our salvation transforms both today and eternity. Maturity is a lifelong journey of growing up in the Lord, and Paul stresses that two keys to grasping maturity are identity and actions.

Identity

Throughout this letter, Paul has made it clear that in God's eyes, there are only two identities, and only one can be true of us. We are either a "gentile" outside of Christ or a "beloved child" in Christ. To grow in maturity, we need to have a God-given identity as a beloved child and walk in the confidence that this is a gift from God freely given because of His grace and mercy.

Gentiles (Outside of Christ)	Beloved Child (In Christ)
Futility of their mind (4:17)	Beloved Child (5:1)
Darkened in their understanding (4:18)	Walk in Love (5:2)
Alienated from the life of God (4:18)	Learned Christ (4:20)
Callous (4:19)	Renewed by the Spirit of your mind (4:23)
Given themselves up to sensuality (4:19)	Created after the likeness of God (4:24)
Greedy to practice every kind of impurity (4:19)	Righteousness and Holiness (4:24)
Darkness (5:7)	Light (5:7)

Actions

Paul also shows that although our identity is found in Jesus and is solely because of His work, we play an important role in our maturity. We do not seek to live out God's call to gain His affection, but instead, we live in response to His affection for us. Our maturity flows from our relationship with God, not for a relationship with Him.

Old Clothes	New Clothes
Falsehood (4:25)	Speak the truth (4:25)
Unrighteous anger (4:26)	Righteous anger (4:26)
Stealing (4:28)	Honest and hard work/ share with others (4:28)
Corrupting Talk (4:29)	Upbuilding speech (4:29)
Grieving the Holy Spirt (4:30)	Pleasing the Holy Spirit (4:30)
Bitterness/Wrath/Anger/ Clamour/Slander/ Malice (4:31)	Kindness/Tender-hearted/ Forgiving (4:32)
Sexual Immorality/All impurity/ Covetousness (5:3)	Imitators of God (5:1)
Filthiness/Foolish Talk/Crude jokes (5:4)	Thanksgiving (5:4)
Deceived by empty words (5:6)	Walk as children of light (5:8)
Unfruitful works of darkness (5:11)	Expose works of darkness (5:11)
Unwise (5:15)	Wise (5:15) Making the best use of your time (5:16)
Drunk on wine (5:18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filled with the Spirit (5:18) • Addressing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (5:19) • Singing and making melody to the Lord in your heart (5:19) • Giving thanks always for everything (5:20)

QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever struggled with confidence in your identity in Christ? If so, how and why?
2. What old clothes is the Spirit convicting you of putting off?
3. What new clothes do you desire to grow in this year?