



Ephesians

Series: Ephesians: Taking Ground

Text: Ephesians 4:7-16 **Title:** "Changed Lives"

Date: July 10, 2022 **Speaker:** Jordan Hansen

Where have we been? What is the book of Ephesians all about?

1-3: Before we can understand what we can do for God...4-5: we must understand what God has done for us.

Nobody likes change. Change can be hard. Change can make us uncomfortable. And, mostly we're talking about our outward circumstances. But the Gospel calls us to a much deeper form of change...inward transformation. But how does change work? And more importantly, without change, how will we ever reflect the unified and healthy church God desires? If we want to make a difference in our community, we must surrender our old ways and learn the new way of Jesus. We need information that leads to transformation. But he won't do everything for us!

Monarch Butterfly→**Why is change necessary?**→**Eph. 4:17-32**

4.17-19

17 With the Lord's authority I say this:

Live no longer as the Gentiles do,
for they are hopelessly confused.

*18 Their minds are full of darkness;
they wander far from the life God gives
because they have closed their minds
and hardened their hearts against him.*

19 They have no sense of shame.

They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

17-19:God calls us to CHANGE.→Paul w/authority: Stop living like the world!→Eugene Peterson Quote

- Why?→Hopelessly confused...→...minds full of darkness.→...wandered far from the life God gives.→...closed minds→...hardened hearts→...no shame→...living for lustful pleasure→...eagerly practicing every kind of impurity.
 - Without God, there is no standard of Truth.→We descend into madness...
 - Was this true?→premarital sex, homosexual sex, adulterous sex, holy/prostitution, incestuous sex = NORMAL!
 - A greek boy was ushered into manhood at the molestation of an older Greek man.
 - Roman Emperors lived debauched lives.→Accounts below.
 - Is it still true today?→Quotes below.→Do I / did I still live like this?→We must have a standard.
- God is calling us to CHANGE...so we don't continue to live confused lives. So how do we do that?

20 But that isn't what you learned about Christ.

*21 Since you have heard about Jesus
and have learned the truth that comes from him,*

*22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life,
which is corrupted by lust and deception.*

23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

24 Put on your new nature,

created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

20-24: Learn to live like Jesus. → Paul reminds us of our standard! → Jesus is our standard.

- Where do we get our information about Jesus? → Read Memorize Understand how Jesus fits into all of Scripture.
- But we need more than information, right? We need to be TRANSFORMED:
 - Transformation is a partnership between me & God.
 - 22: Throw the old nature off. → We DO THIS.
 - 23: Let the Spirit RENEW our thoughts/attitudes. → God does this... but we give Him permission!
 - 24: Put the new nature on. → Created for: righteous & holy. → We DO THIS.
- Anybody can put on a jersey. But only a true fan will celebrate/mourn when Jesus wins/losses...
- Renewal needed: Marriage, parenting, finances, politics, relationships, view people (homeless people)

→ Change requires learning to live like Jesus, our standard. We partner with the HS to put on our new nature. Practical?

25 *So stop telling lies.*

*Let us tell our neighbors the truth,
for we are all parts of the same body.*

26 *And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.”*

*Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry,
27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.*

28 *If you are a thief, quit stealing.*

*Instead, use your hands for good hard work,
and then give generously to others in need.*

29 *Don’t use foul or abusive language.*

*Let everything you say be good and helpful,
so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

30 *And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live.*

*Remember, he has identified you as his own,
guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.*

31 *Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.*

*32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

25-32: Living like Jesus in community is LIFE GIVING. → Paul shows how our new nature GIVES LIFE in community!

- 25: Stop lying. → The Truth is GOOD in community!
- 26-27: Control your anger. → Controlling is GOOD in community!
- 28: Quit stealing. → Working hard and giving generously is GOOD in community!
- 29: Stop swearing. → Using our words to encourage is GOOD in community!
- 30: Don’t make God’s Spirit sad. → Live like we are God’s family is GOOD in community.
- 31-32: Get rid of toxicity... evil behavior. → Being kind, tender hearted, & forgiving... is GOOD in community.
- Jesus isn’t asking us to do something He hasn’t already done for us.

→ Living like Jesus in community creates life-giving communities. We want to be a life giving community.

- MESA LAUNCH TEAM STATEMENT → <https://mesa.church/launch>

As we prepare to launch the Church in September, you have the opportunity to be a part of our launch team. It will be every Tuesday night from 6:30 - 8 PM. The first three weeks will involve prayer, worship & short sessions to equip us to invite people to our interest parties on the last two Tuesdays. People will have a chance to make new friendships and hear the heart behind Mesa Church.

Childcare and dinner will be available each week. As a part of the launch team, there will be other opportunities to see God impact the lives of people in Orange County. Sign up online and let’s see what God will do as we step out in faith together.

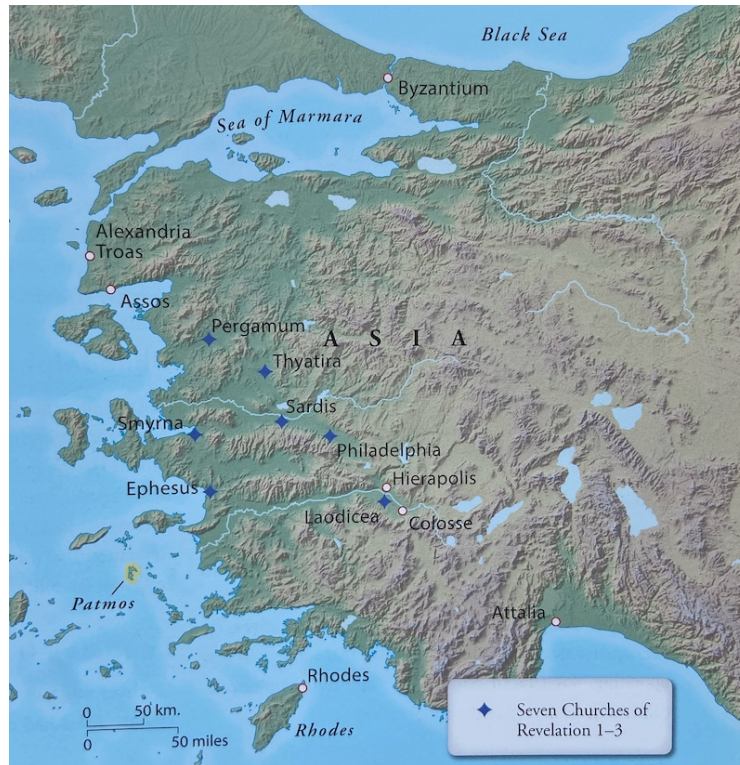
→ **Changed communities lead to more changed lives!** → PRAYER: Father, help me to change!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What is the most radical change I have seen in someone who became a follower of Jesus?
2. Have I experienced transformation in my own life? In what ways would others notice?
3. What role do I play in the transformation process? What role does the Holy Spirit play?
4. Why is the Holy Spirit necessary in the transformation process? Can we change without Him?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, change me so our community can bring life change to others!"

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Bible Project Ephesians Video:** <https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>
- **Historical/Cultural Background to the Book of Ephesians:** <https://youtu.be/6FfIE2jS7-k>
- **"Roman Emperors and Their Sex Lives (7 Stories)":** <https://www.thecollector.com/sex-lives-roman-emperor/>
- **Map of Asia Minor (Modern Day Turkey)** where this letter would have been circulated:



QUOTES / SONGS:

"And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion." - Eugene Peterson, **Ephesians 4:17-19**

Celebrity Quotes:

"There is nothing wrong with going to bed with someone of your own sex. People should be very free with sex--they should draw the line at goats." - **Celebrity**

"I'm actually a pansexual, and I didn't know that," she said, explaining that means that "You like what you like... Doesn't have to be a girl, or a guy, or... you know, a he, a she, a this or that. It's literally, you like personality, like you just like a being." - **Celebrity**

"The whole issue of sexuality is so gray. I'm just trying to acknowledge that fluidity, that grayness, which has always existed. But maybe only now are we allowed to start talking about it." - **Celebrity**

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is et

MESA VISION LINKS:

- What is the Mesa Launch Team & how can I sign up? <https://mesa.church/launch>
- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision.Leadership Values](#)
- Where are we at with the building? Click: [NOW Initiative & Building Renovation](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

MESA GROWTH LINKS:

- How can I grow spiritually? Coming soon.
- How can I grow as a leader? Coming soon.
- What books would you recommend? Click: [Book Recommendations](#)
- Where are Jordan's Interviews? Click: [Talks with Jordan](#)

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