

Tuesday, May 12 , 2020

Week 15 - Ephesians 4:17-24

1. As always, please make observations on: flow of thought, key terms, repeated concepts or most emphasized concepts.
2. Describe the characteristics of the “Gentiles”? What is their greatest downfall?
3. What are all the commands in this passage? What do they expect us to do?
4. What happens if we fail to obey these commands?
5. What are the descriptions and characteristics of genuine believers in this passage?

Connection : Last time, we talked about,

- a. We’re all _____ .
- b. To _____ Christ gave gifts.
- c. Christ gave gifts to the church to minister the_____ .
- d. WE are to grow to the _____ of Christ .
- e. We’re all involved in _____ – building ourselves & each other up in love.

Command of God : [[**TEXT v17-23**]]

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you **walk no longer just as the Gentiles** also walk,

in the futility of their mind,

¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding,

excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them,

because of the hardness of their heart;

¹⁹ and they, having become callous,

have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way,

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, **you lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

²³ and that **you be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, ²⁴ and **put on the new self**, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

What is the command here?

#1 : Stop being like the gentiles

- a) Cross ref:
- b) Command expects:

#2 : The gentiles are : .

- a. Foolish of _____.
- b. Foolish of _____.

- c. **NOTICE & OBSERVATION:** V18b ?*What the relationship there?*

#3 But that's not true of you.

- *Romans 8:5–14*

#4 Change : Put off and Put on.

- a. You have to believe that :

- b. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind :

Discussion :

1. Are there any residual “gentile-ness” in you? i.e. are you hardened? Insensitive? Difficult to talk to? Stubborn?
2. How do you generally deal with change? i.e. Do you hate change? Are you hopeful and willing for change?
 - a. What are some of the hardest things to change about yourself? What are the many ways that we tend to resist change?
3. People have a fear of being fake. How do you “put on” something and not be fake?
4. The command is to stop : Sensuality, Impurity & Greed. Are there any patterns of these in your life?
5. Any other personal applications that you can draw from the principles learned today?

Next Week's Passage :

Ephesians 4:25–32 (NASB95)

- a. Remember to make observations and ask questions about the text. Observe main commands, emphasized or repeated concepts. Observe flow of thought and rationale. Etc. How does this passage connect with the last?
- b. What does it mean to “not let the sun go down on your anger?” What opportunity does the devil get when you’re overly angry?
- c. What are the main areas of life and pattern that he deals with in this passage? Outline them. Do you see any repeat categories?
- d. Most of the commands seem very specific except V30. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit of God? How does someone grieve the Spirit?

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.