

STAGING YOUR HOUSE –PT 1

We love to watch HGTV home renovation shows

We like the ones where they buy dilapidated homes that look like they need to be torn down. Some of them are full of nasty junk, trees growing through floors and roofs, termite damaged, rot in the floors – but when they get finished with these run-down houses, they're now these beautiful homes that sell for half million-over a million dollars

These renovators see the potential and the value in the home and also have a vision to what it will take to attract a future buyer and make a comfortable profit

When it's time to sell them, they know how to stage the house so others can see what a space can really become

1 Cor 6:17-20 NKJV I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. ¹⁸ For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. ²⁰ All the brethren greet you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

You and I are the temple the Holy Spirit lives in. This is a foundational Christian concept Paul taught us as believers

It's a divine indwelling – instead of a physical, man-made building like the temple in Jerusalem, God chooses a permanent residence inside the believer's inner being

God, like these HGTV renovators, sees the incredible potential and value in your spiritual house, no matter how much damage and loss your house has suffered

God the Holy Spirit will occupy our space and make it into an attractive temple that the world can see and want for their own life

Eph 4:17-24 NKJV This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as ^fthe rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their

heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Living as a new person, the world should be able to see a difference between Christians and non-Christians because of the way Christians live

Paul calls believers to a radical lifestyle transformation in ch. 4 & 5

Yes, we have a new nature, but we don't automatically think all good thoughts and express all right attitudes

Paul stresses the significant responsibility given to believers as we live in a sinful world

v. 17-19 Shows the old way of life –

Paul shows a heart separated from God, futility of the mind, a mind that operates with no eternal purpose

v. 18 Darkness & Ignorance –

Its spiritual blindness and the inability to comprehend divine truth, their separated from the life of God so their minds are darkened

v. 18 Hardness of Heart –

Their spiritual callused which leaves them numb to God and His conviction. The problem is not intellectual, it's willfulness to sin and the unwillingness to submit to God

v. 19 Sensuality –

When you abandon moral restraint and they have no feelings about their degenerate condition. Listen to this: darkened minds + darkened hearts = darkened behavior

Sin has a narcotic effect on people and culture and that was going on in Ephesus

v. 20-21 To Know Christ –

It's not about just gathering facts from the Bible about Jesus, but to actually encounter His presence and person

It's not only hearing and understanding, but aligning our lives to the truth

Listen to "know Christ" isn't a simple head exercise, nothing is actually known until it's passed over into obedience

v. 22-24 Change out the old for the new –

Unbelievers live in darkness and sensuality but believers are taught in Christ a whole new manner of living, which means leaving behind the former way of life

Paul was showing us how to daily take off old clothes and put on new ones

v. 22 Make an aggressive break from your old and corrupt lifestyle, put off the old self and it's deceitful lust and desires

v. 23 Renew the Spirit of your mind –

No change can happen on the outside until it takes place on the inside

The Holy Spirit will change the way you think, which produces real visible outward change

v. 24 Put on the new self –

meaning, you must actively clothe yourself in a brand new nature that's modeled after the holiness and righteousness of Christ

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Renovators buy the house with everything they've seen wrong and also all they can't see that's wrong

They replace and restore everything so that it becomes as good if not better than new

That's great that everything is finished but without it being professionally staged, people will never be able to see the real worth all of the hard work that's been done – buyers need to see it as it can be for them

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Christ doesn't just leave you as a new shell, Paul says He asks us to remove the old self and put on the new self

The world doesn't have a clue how to stage a new life in Christ, so we must allow the Holy Spirit to show them how Christ can stage your house so the world will know, see, and visualize what living for Christ looks like!

Christ just gave you a new space, He longs to stage your life so others will buy into the Kingdom!