

SERMON OUTLIINE

In Ephesians 4:17-24 Paul contrasts 2 antithetical ways to live.

- I. Unbelievers live in the futility of their minds:
Don't walk this way (v. 17).
 - A. Darkened (v. 18a).
 - B. Alienated (v. 18b).
 - C. Calloused (v. 19).

- II. Believers live in the truth of educated minds:
Do walk this way (v. 20-21).
 - A. Taught to put off the old self (v. 22).
 - B. Taught to be renewed (v. 23).
 - C. Taught to put on the new self (v. 24).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 25, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 4:17-24

Memory Passage: Ephesians 4:17-24 (review 1:1-4:16)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 4:17-24.** What have you learned about the walk of both believers and unbelievers so far in Ephesians?
- (b) Write an outline for vs. 17-24 that captures both its content and flow of thought.
- (c) To whom is Paul referring with the title “Gentiles?”
- (d) Paul admonishes the Ephesians to “no longer” walk as Gentiles do. What does this tell you about the background of these Ephesian believers and the challenges they daily face (cf. Acts 19:11-41)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:17-24.** Paul explains the phrase “futility of their minds” with three participles: “darkened,” “alienated,” and “have become callous” (vs. 18-19). Explain each one, including the clauses that support and give clarity to each (e.g. “alienated” has supporting clauses that explain from what & why they are alienated, as well as what caused it).
- (b) What is the connection between the Gentiles’ minds & actions? Is this connection necessary or only possible? Explain.
- (c) How does this explanation of the way non-believers’ minds lead to actions help you understand our recent culture shift? How does it help you engage both the people responsible for this shift and the ideas driving the shift itself?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:17-24.** What does Paul “assume” about his Ephesian readers, and why is this crucial to his thought?
- (b) Why does Paul begin this description of a believer’s walk with an appeal to what they have learned, heard, and been taught about Christ (NB: “you” is the 1st word in the Greek text, which makes it emphatic, and “but” is a strong adversative)?
- (c) In explaining what it means to “learn Christ,” Paul says that they learned to “to put off,” “to be renewed,” & “to put on.” Explain each of these phrases, including the clauses that support and give clarity to each one.
- (d) Though not commands, these have the force of commands because they are marks of the believer’s life. How do you understand these action statements (i.e. put off, be renewed, and put on) when compared with Colossians 3:9-10 in which Paul says 2 of these acts have already been accomplished (i.e. you have [already] put off and you have [already] put on) and one is passive (are being renewed)? Is there a contradiction? Explain your answer.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:17-24.** In what way does your “old self” belong to your “former manner of life” (v. 22)?
- (b) How do your “deceitful desires” corrupt this “old self” (notice the present tense of the verb “is corrupted!”)?
- (c) What does it mean to “be renewed in the Spirit of your mind,” and how does this facilitate both “putting off” and “putting on?”
- (d) If your “new self” has been “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness,” why would you ever need to “put off,” “be renewed,” or “put on?” Is it already done or is it not?!?!?!?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:17-24.** How are your actions and your mind connected as a believer in Jesus Christ?
- (b) Write down at least 3 ways you will implement each of the 3 verbs in vs. 22-24 (i.e. 3 ways you will “put off,” 3 ways you will “be renewed,” and 3 ways you will “put on”) over the next week. Here are some verses to help you gain an understanding of both your new life in Christ and how to accomplish living in light of this newness: Romans 8:9-10; 12:1-2; 13:8-14; Colossians 3:1-17; Titus 3:1-8; James 1:17-27; 1 Peter 1:22-2:3.

DATE: June 25, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 4:17-24

Two Ways to Live