



Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

**The New Life in Christ**



# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Ephesians so far...

- ⇒ Understanding who I am
- ⇒ Becoming who we are
- ⇒ Last couple of weeks...
  - ⇒ Paul shifts gears in Chapter 4... “Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”
  - ⇒ Everyone has spiritual gifts
  - ⇒ We are all expected to use them for God’s glory and the building up of the body

# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Ephesians 4:17-24...

<sup>17</sup> Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ! —



# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Ephesians 4:17-24...

<sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Your Former Way of Life...

☞ We all have a problem called... *Drift*

### 1. Futility of their minds

☞ Darkened understanding

⇒ Life without God is meaningless (Ecclesiastes)

⇒ People who reject the knowledge of God think of themselves as enlightened

⇒ Proverbs 14:12... There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

⇒ Rom 1:21-25



## Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



**Romans 1:21-25...** <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Your Former Way of Life...

### 1. Futility of their minds

⇒ Darkened understanding

⇒ Alienated from the life of God

⇒ God blesses the believer with spiritual life

⇒ Eph 2:4... “<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—”



# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Your Former Way of Life...

### 1. Futility of their minds

- ➡ Darkened understanding
- ➡ Alienated from the life of God
- ➡ Ignorant of Christ
  - ⇒ Simply... They don't know Jesus



# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Your Former Way of Life...

### 1. Futility of their minds

- ➡ Darkened understanding
- ➡ Alienated from the life of God
- ➡ Ignorant of Christ
- ➡ Hardness of heart
  - ⇒ The reason people have rejected God and his way of life boils down to... we want our own way!
  - ⇒ This is also why we often struggle when the Bible doesn't match our experience or belief systems

# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## Your Former Way of Life...

1. Futility of their minds
2. Futility of their actions

⇒ Callous

⇒ “Greedy to practice impurity”

⇒ Desperate to fulfill their own sinful desires

⇒ When our minds are bent on our own happiness and selfish pursuits, we become enslaved by them

⇒ Why? Our selfish pursuits and thoughts are futile!



# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## The New Life in Christ...

### 1. Put off the “Old Self”

- ⇒ Your former life is not who you are now
- ⇒ Your desires were deceitful
  - ⇒ They promise us what we think we want, but they never deliver!

### 2. Put on the “New Self”

- ⇒ If you are a Christian, you are a new person!
- ⇒ Created in God’s likeness... God’s desire is to craft you into his own image

# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## So What?

### 1. Beware of our natural drift towards self-fulfilling emptiness

- ⇒ We often glorify our former way of life
- ⇒ “Prone to wander, Lord I feel it..”



# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## So What?

1. Beware of our natural drift towards self-fulfilling emptiness
2. The call of a worthy life is a call to obedience

- ⇒ “obedience” is a tough word in our culture
- ⇒ We can't claim to be in Christ, but not do what he says
- ⇒ We need to wrestle, but Jesus always wins
- ⇒ C.S. Lewis

# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## C.S. Lewis... *Mere Christianity*

“[To have Faith in Christ] means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you.”



# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



## So What?

1. Beware of our natural drift towards self-fulfilling emptiness
2. The call of a worthy life is a call to obedience
3. We desperately need God's grace
  - ☞ We can't do it on our own strength
  - ☞ Failure is inevitable.. This is why the gospel has great power in our lives
  - ☞ We never stop needing Jesus!

# Ephesians 4:17-24... The New Life in Christ



**A.W. Tozer...**

“O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, ‘Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.’ Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long.”