



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH  
Jesus changes lives

## EPHESIANS: PART #3 NEW LIVING



### *Ephesians #12 – The Gospel brings New Life (4:17-32)*

“... 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 4:23-24*

#### NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

#### HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Apologetics and the Church**
  - Date: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of Nov, 10am-3:30pm.
  - Location: Life Centre Church, Level 3, 1642 Anzac Ave, Northlakes 4509.
  - Register & Info: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/acts-29-brisbane-event-tickets-76179475863?fbclid=IwAR0tmkcrJnVLSd3XGW8MPfYV1u60mOF-YbppA4D54DOJ3gYOR8CJHh-RUKU>
- **Christmas Carols: Save the date! 22<sup>nd</sup> of Dec**
  - If you're able to serve speak to Mikey to find out how.
- **Man Camp: Save the date! 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of March**



## EPHESIANS #12 – THE GOSPEL BRINGS NEW LIFE (4:17-32)

### REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

### DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

#### **Ephesians 4:17-32**

<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!— <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.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



## APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **THE OLD LIFE:** *Read verses 17-19*
  - a. What should we avoid stumbling on in the Christian walk?
    - i. *Futility in mind; darkened in understanding; alienation and ignorance of God; hardness of Heart.*
  - b. What does it mean that they have become 'callous'?
    - i. *An insatiable greed and lust that will grow uncontrollably.*
3. **THE NEW LIFE:** *Read verses 20-24*
  - a. What of your 'old self' have you put off?
  - b. *Our new self is to take after the "likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness".* How is the "new self" being created in you today?
4. **THE NEW WAY TO LIVE:** *Read verse 25-32*
  - a. *List the actions Paul calls us out from and into.* Is there an area in here that God is calling you to work on?
  - b. How are you actively putting off the Old Self and putting on the New Self?

## PRAY

Pray through the area that spoke to you the most. Do you have areas in your life that you need to repent over? Ask God to help guide you in how you can be putting off what is old, and replacing it with what is new.

## NOTES

Eph. 4:17–24 Paul's Testimony. Paul testifies to the new life in Christ experienced by the Gentile Christians of Ephesus.

Eph. 4:17–18 Paul affirms most solemnly in the Lord that his Gentile readers, as part of the new creation, should no longer live as the Gentiles do (vv. 22–24; Col. 3:9–10). futility of their minds ... darkened. Both in antiquity and today, people who reject the knowledge of God think of themselves as "enlightened" (cf. Heb. 10:32). Their ignorance here is not lack of general education; some are brilliant in their own way, but such brilliance is all wasted and futile in the end when combined with hardness of heart toward the truth of the gospel in Christ (cf. Matt. 13:14–15; John 12:40; Acts 28:26–27; Rom. 11:8).

Eph. 4:22 put off your old self. As Christians seek to do this, God makes it a reality, as seen in Col. 3:9–10. Even Paul's Gentile readers can be part of the new creation in Christ. (As



the ESV footnote indicates, “self” is the generic Gk. for “man” or “human”—perhaps an allusion to Adamic man apart from Christ.) Ephesians 4:22 describes the negative side of regeneration, while vv. 23–24 point to the positive side. corrupt. People need inner transformation because their hearts are “deceitful above all things, and desperately sick” (Jer. 17:9).

Eph. 4:23 renewed. Paul expressed the negative side of the new creation in v. 22 as putting off the “old self,” while vv. 23–24 express the positive side as an entire transformation of believers’ inner selves, focusing here on their minds (see also John 3:3–6; Col. 3:9–10). Christians sometimes distinguish between knowledge of head and of heart, but the Bible shows that they should love and serve the Lord with all that is in them, including their minds, at all times (Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 13:3; Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27). The “renewal” or “transformation” of the mind (Rom. 12:2) is a process in which believers begin to think in new and right ways as they meditate on the truths of God’s Word.

Eph. 4:24 put on the new self. Paul focuses on the individual aspect of the corporate “new man” as described in 2:15. Believers are created anew in Christ (see also 2:10). Created after the likeness of God further shows the connection with the original creation in Genesis, where “God created man in his own image” (Gen. 1:27; cf. 1 Cor. 15:49).

Eph. 4:25–32 Exhortation to an Edifying Lifestyle. Paul gives practical examples of how church members build up Christ’s body (cf. vv. 13–16), based on what is true of them as Christians.

Eph. 4:25 Therefore. In vv. 25–32 Paul will show how Christians are to put into practice the truths explored in vv. 17–24.

Eph. 4:26–27 Be angry. Not all anger is sin, but the believer should not be consumed by anger, nor should one’s anger even be carried over into the next day, as this will only give an opportunity to the devil.

Eph. 4:28 Paul uses the thief to illustrate how repentance impacts one’s lifestyle. Repentance involves both stopping (negative) and starting (positive). The thief must stop stealing and start doing honest work. Stealing arises out of laziness and greed, so the repentant thief must display the opposite: diligence at labor and willingness to share.

Eph. 4:29 corrupting talk. As with the “stopping” and “starting” noted in v. 28, Christians are to stop evil speech, substituting talk that is good for building up and giving grace. “Corrupting” (Gk. SAPROS) also applies to “bad” (rotten) fruit (Luke 6:43) or “bad” (putrid) fish (Matt. 13:48). To “give grace” in speaking means to benefit others rather than corrupt them through what is said.

Eph. 4:30 grieve. Grieving the Holy Spirit means to cause him sorrow by one’s sin. sealed. See note on 1:13. The day of redemption is the day of Christ’s return (see Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:23).

Eph. 4:31 All bitterness means “every kind of bitterness.” “All” also modifies the other items in the list, telling readers to put away all wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice. “Bitterness” may head the list because it so often leads to the other sins that Paul names. Bitterness comes



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from a heart that is not right before God (Acts 8:21–23); it is a primary characteristic of an unregenerate person (Rom. 3:10–14); and it causes destruction and defilement (Heb. 12:15). Bitterness and resentment are thus incompatible with Christian character and must be put away. People often are very careless with their speech (“slander”), even though the tongue can ignite a forest fire of harm to others (James 3:5–6).

Eph. 4:32 Being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving flows from constantly remembering that God first forgave us and that we need his forgiveness daily, as the Lord’s Prayer reminds us: “forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matt. 6:12; cf. Luke 11:4).

## REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.