

“YOU ARE RENEWED”

Text: Ephesians 4:17-24
Subject: “How God Changes Us Day After Day”

Introduction

- ◆ In chapter 1, you are “Accepted”
- ◆ In chapter 2, you are “Quickened”
- ◆ In chapter 3, you are “Strengthened”
- ◆ In chapter 4, you are “Renewed”

(Verse 23), “And be renewed in the Spirit of your mind”

- ◆ In chapter 1, you’ve been accepted and have right standing before God as a family member.
- ◆ In chapter 2, you were spiritually dead but have been made alive after salvation.
- ◆ In chapter 3, you are strengthened by the Holy Spirit (to the degree that the Lord is allowed to dwell, rule, reign and call the shots in your life).

Now ◆ In chapter 4, we are renewed and changed dramatically – from the inside out!

Question: Why does God want to change us?

Answer: (Verse 1), So that we can walk worthy of bearing His Name.

(Verse 1), “I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called”.

Question: Is it that important God changes us?

Answer: (V. 1), “I beseech you”

- ◆ The word “Beseech” means to “Strongly” urge.
- ◆ It is God urging us to live and reflect His glory.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ In chapters 1,2 & 3 – we see our riches in Christ.
- ◆ In chapters 4,5 & 6 – we see our responsibility in light of those riches.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ In chapters 1-3, God pours out His grace to accept us, quicken us and strengthen us.
- ◆ Now in chapters 4-6, we pour out our cooperation to reflect God’s glory.

(In Plain Vanilla)

Question: Why has God saved us?

Answer: Isaiah 43:7, “Bring my sons and my daughters, every one that is called by my name, for I have created you for My glory, it is I that has made you”.

Question: Pastor, how does God change us?

Answer: By giving us truth (A mirror) to respond to:

(What Is The Truth?)

I. The “Mandate” For Change (Vs. 17-22)

Question: What’s the mandate for change that God has given us?

Answer: (V. 17), “Walk not as other Gentiles walk”

- ◆ God had saved converts in Ephesus.
- ◆ The converted were from among the heathen, and Paul refers to them as Gentile converts.

Question: What is Paul’s mandate to those who are now saved?

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Answer: “Walk not as other Gentiles walk”.

(In Other Words)

◆ Make the clean break from your former life.

Question: Why make a clean break from the former life (before Christ?)

Answer: Because, before salvation we are in a horrible condition.

Question: Pastor, what would I be like if I was unsaved today?

Answer: Here is God’s description of you and me in verses 17-19:

(This Produces Gratitude)

#1. **We were “Vain”** (v. 17B)

“Walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind”

- ◆ The word “Vanity” means: empty, futile, aimless & worthless.
- ◆ It means the unsaved (you and me before conversion) – were void of the truth and empty on the inside.

(In other Words)

- ◆ Before salvation, we are empty on the inside, aimless on the outside, because our aim is to follow after worthless things.

#2. **We were “Darkened”** (v. 18)

“Having our understanding darkened” (v. 18A)

- ◆ The word “Darkened” means: We were unable to see and understand God’s eternal plan for us.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ We gave ourselves over to sinful pleasures because we were blind to the good life in God.

#3. **We were “Alienated”** (v. 18)

“Alienated from the life of God because of the blindness in our heart”.

- ◆ The word “Alienated” means: estranged, separated, cut off and detached”.
- ◆ We were totally separated from the life of God we now enjoy.
- ◆ All because of our own blindness.

#4. **We were “Callous”** (v. 19)

“Who being past feeling, we gave ourselves over to uncleanness”

- ◆ The words “Past feelings” mean: calloused & hardened.
- ◆ It means, before conversion, we were hard and callous and insensible toward God.
- ◆ Our conscience becomes callous the more we continue in sin and sin becomes more acceptable.
- ◆ No more tears for sin, means: We give ourselves over to lasciviousness, uncleanness and greed.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The longer we are calloused and hardened against God...
- ◆ ...the more insensitive our conscience becomes...
- ◆ ...and therefore, the more unclean we become with desires out of control.
- ◆ The word “Greediness” in verse 19 means: “To crave and covet and desire to have more and more and more”...
- ◆ ...of the things that enslave us and hold us in bondage.

(That's The Bad News – Now The Good News)

II. The “Method” For Change (Vs. 23-32A)

Question: Pastor, if God mandates the change, how is change possible?

Question: Is it God's work or is it our work?

◆ The method of being changed (inwardly and outwardly) is described in verses 22,23 & 24:

In verse 22, “Put off the old man”

In verse 23, “Be renewed in the Spirit of your mind”

In verse 24, “Put on the new man”

Question: Pastor, how does an alcoholic no longer live for the bottle?

Question: Pastor, how does a drug user, no longer live in bondage to drugs?

Question: Pastor, how does an angry man, no longer live a slave to his temper?

Question: Pastor, how does a glutton, no longer live addicted to his appetite?

Question: Pastor, how does a gossip overcome the trouble with the tongue?

Question: Pastor, how does a lustful man or woman find victory over sexual sins?

Question: Pastor, how does someone overcome addiction to cigarettes, food, T.V., approval, laziness, bitterness, impure thoughts and the flesh?

(In Plain Vanilla)

◆ How does someone (how do you) how do I, “Put off the old man and put on the new man?”

◆ How do we “practically” flesh this out day after day?

#1. In verse 22, we “Put Off The Old Man” (Which means:)

◆ At salvation God places a new nature in you and me.

◆ At salvation, God doesn't remove the sinful nature, but its power is broken, so that we are no longer governed by it. (Repeat)

(In Other Words)

#1. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer (but),

#2. The believer still has choices to make every day when tempted by the sinful nature.

(So, To “Put Off The Old Man”)

◆ Is to obey the Holy Spirit and the Word of God – by saying “Yes” to God and “No” to sin.

(To “Put Off The Old Man” means:)

#1. I can choose to deny the cravings of a sinful nature.

#2. I can decide to turn around the other way.

#3. I can say no when temptation entices me to sin.

#4. I can (with God's help) put off the things that do not glorify God in my life.

(In Other Words)

#1. God inspires us to put off the former things (just like we take off dirty clothes),

#2. Then we decide to take off the clothes (the things) that lead us further away from God.

Question: Why is this action on our part so decisive and so important?

Answer: (Verse 22), “Put off the old man which is (what?) corrupt according to the deceitful desires”

(“Deceitful Desires” Means:)

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- ◆ What we fail to “Put off” deceives us and leads us astray.
- ◆ What we fail to “Put off” deceives us and leads us to ruin.
- ◆ What we fail to “Put off” deceives us by promising something it cannot deliver.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Any sin not put off, will eventually lead us to tears and disappointment, it has betrayal in its core.

(In Verse 22, We Put Off The Old Man)

#2. In verse 23, we are renewed in the “*Spirit Of The Mind*” (Which means what?)

- ◆ The Greek words here reveal that this is a continual process.
- ◆ It’s a process that keeps on occurring day by day.
- ◆ To be “Renewed in the Spirit of your mind” means:

- #1. At salvation, our minds were renewed (changed) by the presence of Jesus.
- #2. Our renewed mind, must now be constantly renewed by focusing on spiritual things.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ We will become what we allow our minds (thoughts) to dwell upon.
- ◆ We will become renewed (or torn down) by what we dwell upon in our thinking.

(Proverbs 23:7)

“As a man or woman thinketh in their heart, so that’s what they become”.

- #1. We put off the old man (anything that tempts us in the wrong direction)
- #2. We allow God to fill our minds with true thoughts (that lead us to joy and peace in the Holy Spirit).

#3. In verse 24, we “*Put On The New Man*” (Which means:)

- ◆ Our body stays the same, but an inward change takes place. (What is it?)

In verse 22, we put off the old entanglements.

In verse 23, we put our minds on wholesome things.

In verse 24, we put on the new man (or),

- ◆ We dress up with new clothes,
- ◆ We dress up with sacred things,
- ◆ We dress up with prayer, the Word, humility and obedience (that produces what?)

(Verse 24), “Righteousness and True Holiness”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ What we feed upon and dress ourselves with spiritually, (we will become and known by).
- ◆ How are we changed?
- ◆ What’s the method?

- #1. (Verse 22), God inspires us to put off the old man, the things that move us away from God.
- #2. (Verse 23), God renews our mind as we cooperate and yield our minds to Him and think on wholesome thoughts.

#3. (Verse 24), God produces righteousness and true holiness in us as we dress up (or put on) the disciplines that allow God to change us.

(In Other Words)

(To get a sun-tan, 2 things are needed:)

- #1. The sun (and) #2. Someone to tan
- ◆ God is the Sun (and will do His part)
 - ◆ We are His people (and must expose ourselves to His Word and Spirit to be changed).

III. The “Motivation” For Change (v. 32B)

Question: What provokes us to cooperate with God?

Answer: (verse 32B), “Even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ When I realize what I was without Jesus, (vain, darkened, alienated and callous),
- ◆ And when I realize that God is able to change my old man into a new man,
- ◆ Then I accept responsibility for my own behavior and walk before the world.

Question: How does being changed affect us?

- #1. We deal with our tongue (v. 25)
- ◆ And speak the truth with no false pretense)
- #2. We deal with our anger (v. 26)
- ◆ And refuse to go to sleep tonight with unresolved anger in our hearts.
- #3. We deal with our temptations (v. 27)
- ◆ And give no foothold for sin to work from.
- #4. We deal with our selfishness (v. 28)
- ◆ And give to those who are needy.
- #5. We deal with our offenses (v. 29)
- ◆ And minister encouragement to people instead of poison)
- #6. We deal with our obedience, (v. 30)
- ◆ And yield to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.
- #7. We deal with our forgiveness, (vs, 31, 32)
- ◆ And forgive every trespass against us because (why?)

“Because Christ Has Forgiven You”

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor
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