



Ephesians

Sermon 8

Ephesians 4:7 – 5:2

Sermon Study Guide Questions

November 3, 2019

Review:

Last week, we read that when each person in the body of Christ does their work, the body/church is healthy and grows. Also, we learned about the importance of each of us discovering our spiritual gifts and putting them to use. In so doing, we will grow become mature in our faith. If there is no growth, we are only ministry spectators who remain children and make for an immature church.

In 4:16, Paul tells the Ephesians that in Christ the whole body is joined and held together by every joint bringing unity and equipping believers to do the work of the ministry. When each part is working properly, the body grows and builds itself up in love!

This speaks of the importance of every member being a minister who uses his or her gift(s). When we use our gifts, the church matures and grows

Now, we will look at the importance of lifestyle in a believer's walk towards maturity.

Paul describes the difference between a non-believing gentile (who really had no idea of what it meant to walk in the righteousness of God) and a believing gentile who has come to know Christ. What a difference!

Read Ephesians 4:17- 5:2

- Why is Paul warning them to no longer walk as unbelieving gentiles? (4:17-18)
- This suggests that, as people became believers, there were lifestyle changes that needed to take place in their lives. Just like these Ephesian believers – what changes do you need to make in your lifestyle?
- What is Paul's description of a gentile who did not know God? (4:18 -19)
- According to verses 17-19, how do the mind, heart and conscience influence the actions of non-believers?

- How are Christians to deal with these realities? (4:20)
- Where does truth come from? What are its benefits? (4:21)
- What does “put on and put off” mean? When does this action take place? (4:20-24)
- Why does Paul call the believers to put off your old self - your former manner of life?

- Is it possible to change conduct without a transformation of the heart? Can the heart be changed without evidence of change? Why is that?
- What does it mean to renew the spirit of your mind? (4:23)
- Paul describes the put off/put on process in this passage. What occurs that when a person receives Christ? How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 back verses 20-24?
- According to Paul, what specific action distinguishes the Christian lifestyle from the pagan lifestyle? Paul also, addressed this with the believers in Galatians 5:16-25. What battle of the flesh and Spirit do you discover from his teachings?

What are the examples of the “put off/put on process”? (4:15)

- Why is it important to ‘put off’ being angry and what can enter your life if you don’t? (4:26-28)
- What can you do to resolve your differences? How can you work on mending your relationships in a way that would honor God?
- What other examples does Paul bring them to put off/put on? List them in your own words. (5:28-32)

- Apparently, God is very concerned about the way we live our lives, through His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit within us is a guarantee that we belong to God. What happens when we sin? (4:30)

Note:

When we don't put off the old (our old manner of life) and put on the new (God's righteous ways), we grieve the Holy Spirit and make Him sad, disappointed and quenched.

When we sin, He wants to go away and leave us. He can't, since we have been sealed by Him until the day of redemption. What sins are you wrestling with or comfortable with?

Because the Holy Spirit is stuck with us, He suffers with us in our sinful behavior – He gets dragged in the mud with us.

- What does Paul say about the believer in Romans 12:1-2?
How does this compare to Ephesians 4:17-32?

- Ephesians 5:1-2 calls us to be imitators of God – what does that mean?

Closing

If you have some lifestyle changes that need to be made, ask the Holy Spirit to help you put off and put on.

CrossRoads of Arlington
Sermon Study Guide

Ephesians

For information or questions, contact Gene-o Parenica

geneo1958@gmail.com 817-501-0212