

I. The Old - Eph. 4:17-19

- Rea 1. Negative - verse 20 begins the positive
 -change in way of life
2. Not like the Gentiles (**verse 17**)
 -a change in loyalty to Christ would change our behavior
3. The old ethic
- A. Lived in the futility of their thinking
 -futility is uselessness or emptiness
 -KJV - vanity
- B. They are darkened in understanding (**verse 18**)
 -not just empty (verse 17) but evil (verse 18)
Rea -Satan has blinded us to truth and reality - “you will know the truth...” and
 it will set you free (John 8:32)
- C. They are “separated” from the life of God
 -dead apart from God (compare Eph. 2:1ff)
 -cut off from the life-giving power of God
Rea -“hell” is eternal separation from God
- D. Lived in ignorance
- E. Their hearts are hardened
 -calloused
Rea -compare Romans 1 where they did not “know” God
 -lose all sensitivity to God and the things of God (**verse 19**)
- Rea - numb? Hearts are cold and lifeless
- F. Given themselves over to “sensuality”
Rea -and “greed”
 -sensuality is every type of immorality
- Rea -two types of “lusts”
 >sexual
 >financial

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Note the downward spiral of evil...
 -thinking > understanding > separated > ignorance > hardened > insensitive >
 sensuality
 -sin is always downhill, each sin makes it easier to commit the next one
2. We sometimes ask how do people get so hard? - this is how
3. Starts with “thinking?”
 -or starts with Satan’s blinding?
4. Note that verse 20 says this was your old way of life

II. The Change - Eph. 4:20-24

1. Not the life you “learned” (**verses 20-21**)
Rea -surely not just mental “learning” - however, Jesus said “learn” of me (Mt.11:28-
 30)
2. Three images of coming to Christ:

- A. School - life and teaching of Jesus
 - verse 21 says we were “taught”
 - verse 22 says “taught”

B. Changing clothes (**verses 22-23**)

- put off and put on
- like changing shirts
- implies WE must do something - post salvation
- the same image is used at Col. 3:10
- the change in behavior starts with a change in the mind
- the goal of the change is to “be like God” (**verse 24**)
- wow! Are we able to do that?

Ideas and Questions:

1. Do you think this process of change will happen by itself? - or do we need to do something?
2. The idea of “changed” person is throughout the Bible - we ought to expect people to change - but this is not preached/ taught - there ought be change
 - we should expect people to change
3. Change to “righteousness and holiness” (verse 24)
4. The change (though) is a process of growth

III. The New - Eph. 4:25-32

1. Put off falsehood (**verse 25**)

- speak truthfully
- note that both negative and positive are involved here (put off and put on)
- discuss lying and the idea that a “white lie” is okay

2. The new way of life also involves how we deal with anger (**verses 26-27**)

- the text does not say, don’t be angry - but in that anger don’t sin
- A. Don’t let the sun go down on your anger
- B. Don’t let Satan get a foothold

3. Just my take, much anger IS sin

- the motives for anger matter
- there is righteous anger, but there is unrighteous anger
- Mt 5:21-26
- when I get angry it tells you a whole lot about me
- this text says that to remain in anger without dealing with it definitely IS sin

4. This new way of life does not allow stealing (**verse 28**)

- the opposite of the stealing heart is the working heart
- the way to “get” and “have” is to work
- A. Do useful things with your hands
- B. So that you can give to others who are less fortunate

5. The new way of life changes the way we talk (**verses 29-30**)

- A. Unwholesome talk - like rotten fruit (Mt. 7:17-18)
- B. Talk that builds others up
- C. Corrupting talk grieves the Holy Spirit

- by our words we make the Holy Spirit sad
- you ought be able to listen to someone talk and tell if they are saved

Rea -is it true that some people just talk too much? - what percentage of our talk is wholesome?

6. Let go of old attitudes - in this new way to live (**verses 31-32**)

A. Let go of bitterness, rage and anger

Rea -hmmmm sure sounds like anger is a sin here

B. Let go of brawling and slander and malice

C. Be forgiving, just as Christ forgave you

Rea D. All these are out of an angry heart

E. Instead of these negatives we ought be characterized by

-kindness and compassion and forgiveness

-a sweet disposition

Rea -the type person easy to be around

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Are these sins/ virtues taught much?

-discuss the “angry” Christian

2. Are these actions or are they character?

3. These all together might be called “holiness” - or purity

4. Do you know is someone is filled with lies? - how do you know that?

SS Lesson for 10-27-19 - Greg Pouncey