

The New Life

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, April 11, 2021; Richie Pendred

Sermon Theme: The people of God walk radically different from those in the world, displayed in the upheaval of the old self and the active putting on of the new self, culminating in the restoration of the image of God.

I. The Walk of the Gentiles – Read Ephesians 4:17-19

- A. How does Paul utilize the “walking” language in chapters 4 and 5 (4:1, 4:17, 5:2, 5:8, 5:15)? How is this “walking” language helpful in understanding verses Ephesians 4:17-24?
- B. What does Paul say about the walk of the Gentiles? List all the different ways in which Paul describes them in verses 17-19. How would you interpret and summarize his description?
- C. How would you compare and contrast verse 19 and being “greedy to practice every kind of impurity” with verse 3 and being “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”?

II. The Walk of the Redeemed – Read Ephesians 4:20-24a

- A. What do think Paul means when he says, “that is not the way you learned Christ?” Usually we learn information or facts, but what do you think it means to learn Jesus?
- B. According to 21-24, what are the three functions of the walk of the redeemed? What is the old self and why does it need to be put off? What is your orientation to putting sin to death in your life? What areas of your life are you more tolerant to certain sins rather than waging war against sin?
- C. How are believers to be renewed in the spirit of their minds? What are some other passages that highlight the necessity of having a renewed mind (i.e Romans 12:2)? Are there others?
- D. What do you think Paul means by the “new self”? How do we know exactly what that is? What are some of the different strategies that you use to put off the old self and put on the new self?

III. The Walk of the New Life – Read Ephesians 4:24b

- A. According to Ephesians 4:24b, what is the image that believers are called to “put on”? What do you think is God’s purpose in restoring His image among His people? Why is that encouraging?
- B. Why is real transformation possible for those who have been redeemed? In what areas of your heart have you seen God working over the course of the past year? In what areas of your life would you like to put sin to death? In what areas would you like to walk in newness of life?
- C. Read Colossians 3:1-17. What similarities do you see between Ephesians 4:17-24 and Colossians 3:1-17? What is the foundational purpose for putting sin to death and walking in newness of life? How can we continue to excel still more in learning and enjoying Christ as we pursue holiness?
- D. In what ways is sanctification a team sport? Meaning, how can brothers and sisters in Christ be helpful to one another in the process of putting sin to death and walking in righteousness?