

EPHESIANS 4:17-32

GETTING STARTED...

What is the biggest change you have made in your life? Maybe it was the change from high school to graduation? Single to married? Married to children? Retired? There are certainly moments that define and change our lives and we can look back at what our life was like before and after and see real differences. However, most of those changes can be just external changes. We are still the same people underneath just in a new environment. However, when we come to Jesus it is a different change that takes place. We are new people in the same environment. When we place our trust in Jesus we are new people. But just like a child growing up, we also need to learn how to live this new life. Paul as he writes to the Ephesians reminds them of the change that has been made and how we are to live out the difference that Jesus has made.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:17-32

¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of

redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Paul makes a contrast between the old life and the new life in verses 17-24. What are the differences that he points out?
2. In verses 25-32 we are given practical steps to live out this new life, what are those practical instructions? In each example Paul gives not only the command but a reason behind it. What are they?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz What aspects of your old life are you still clinging to? Are you allowing the Spirit to renew your mind in an ongoing way? Do your relationships reflect the grace you've experience in Jesus

Chilliwack There are behaviours that are consistent and inconsistent with our identity in Christ. Review verses 25-32, be transparent with each other, ask for each other's help, and pray over each other, asking for God's help to overcome corrupted attitudes and actions and instead to continue to be renewed and transformed into Christlikeness.

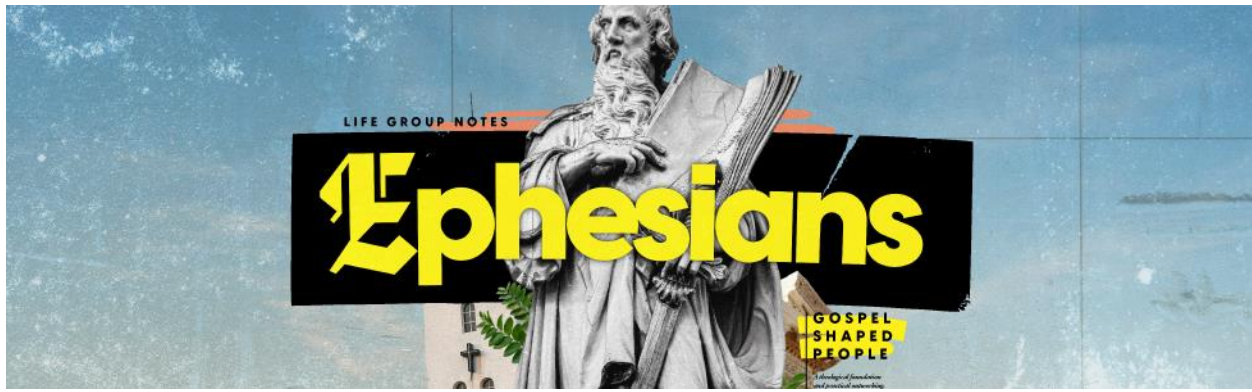
Harrison/Lake Errock What are some ways that you have seen your "old self" show up in your thoughts, or actions? How does the gospel empower you to "put on the new self"? How can we grow in creating a gospel-shaped community that is marked by kindness, forgiveness, and grace?

Promontory What part of your life do you think you've seen Jesus change the most? What areas do you still need God's help? How can you fight against the old callous mind? How does recognizing the change Jesus makes in us help live practically as Christians?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?

2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*