

March 10, 2019

“Motivating Change”
Ephesians 4:17-21

Ice Breaker:

What was the first article of clothing you purchased with your own money?

What is one “New Year’s resolution” that has been perennially difficult for you to keep?

Read: Ephesians 4:17-21

1. What insight, principle or observation did you find to be most fresh, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. Why is Paul so emphatic in verse 17?
3. Describe some evidence in our culture of a loss of shame.
4. What exactly is the “self” as in the “old self/new self?”
5. What are characteristics of the life we used to live without Christ?
6. Think again through the characteristics of the old life and flip them to the opposite. What are they? Do these describe a path to the new life? In what way?
7. Do you see any warning signs in these verses for believers? What?
8. What is one way you have noticed a contrast between your old way of life and your new way?
9. What old piece of clothing (old life attitude or action) is hard for you right now to throw out and get rid of? What is the first step you will need to take in getting rid of it?

Pray for each other:

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Paul motivates us to change. He knows we need it. Unless the root of our problem is addressed, the practical path he lays out for us in the rest of his letter will be pointless. Paul believes its essential that we clearly see the contrast of where we used to be and then live in keeping with who we now are in Christ. That's really the key. Paul wants us to learn Christ, for it is our view of Jesus that determines how I practically will live every day.

1. Remember who you used to be. (verses 17-19)

- A. Darkened mind

- B. Hardened heart

- C. Reckless life

2. Learn Christ. (verses 20-21)

Next Step:

What old piece of clothing (old life attitude or action) is hard for you right now to throw out and get rid of? What is the first step you will need to take in getting rid of it?