

# Life Group Study Guide

November 6, 2022

Ephesians 4:17-32

## Ephesians 4:17-32

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

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

1. What is the difference between you now, and before you came to faith in Christ?
  - What changes have you seen in your thoughts, emotions, & behaviors?
2. Why is it important to remember who you are IN CHRIST?
  - How does this simple truth inform how you live your life?
3. Paul describes the life of those who choose to reject the message of Christ in **vs. 17-19**. Do you believe this view is accurate?
  - How have you seen this played out in the lives of non-Christians in your life?
4. What 3 stages of transformation does Paul list in **vs. 22 - 24**?
  - In what way have these transforming steps been done for you by Christ?
  - In what way are we to participate in this continuous work of transformation?

<sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

5. Examine the commands from **vs. 25-32**. In these verses, what are believers ...
  - NOT TO DO?
  
  - TO DO?
  
  - What is the reason given for why they are to do this?
  
6. What does it mean to bring sorrow to or grieve the Holy Spirit? (**vs. 30**)
  
7. Review your answers to question 5. Would obeying the commands of **vs. 25-32** require you to change anything you are currently doing?
  - Are you challenged by this verse in a particular way?
  
8. Why is it necessary to replace old, bad habits with new, God-honoring practices?
  - How have you experienced this in your own life?