

Identity

12.18.11

Ephesians 4:17-24

Sermon Discussion Questions:

- 1) How do those apart from Christ (in this passage, the “gentiles”) live in the futility of their thinking (Ephesians 4:17-19)? How is it “futile”? How have you seen this in your own life or the life others?
- 2) If we are meant to “put on the new self which is created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness,” why can it be so hard (see Romans 7:14-21; Hebrews 12:1-3)?
- 3) What does it mean to be crucified with Christ (see Galatians 2:20). What does this look like? How is it true if we weren’t actually with Jesus on the cross?
- 4) How could we possibly leave behind who we used to be? What implications does this new identity have on how we view other people (see 2nd Corinthians 5:16-21; Colossians 3:11)? How might you change the way *you* interact with other believers in light of this?
- 5) What examples does Paul give of what it means to “put off the old self, be made new in the attitude of your minds, and put on the new self” in Ephesians 4:25-32? What would it look like for you to do this in your own life? What changes do you need to make?
- 6) What kind of identity has been a characteristic of your old self? What do you want the “new self” to look like?
- 7) Have you left behind your life of sin and chosen to place your faith in Jesus? If not, what is keeping you from it? If so, share how God has changed your life.
- 8) Is there anyone for whom this message would be particularly helpful or encouraging? If so, who? How can you make a point of talking to them about it in the next few days?