



# Ephesians

## Part 35

Ephesians 4:20-32  
Week of November 14, 2021

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Before Connect Group

- Read Ephesians 4:20-32
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

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*But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. 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. 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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

*Ephesians 4:20-32*

# Sermon Notes

*The salvation work of Christ in the most powerful work every given to humanity from the mercy and grace of God. The outward manifestation of this transformation, is most notably seen in the way the Church loves and treats one another.*

We made a claim last week that the imagery that will provide our lens of understanding for the rest of the chapters of Ephesians is that of “Taking off” our old selves, and “Putting on” our new selves. We made mention that the way Paul develops this argument, is that the work of “renewing your mind” is a completed task in Jesus Christ, However - the work of putting off and putting on is a daily work done on our part through the Grace of God in Christ. And we followed Paul as he took something from the philosophical realm and set it before us in very practical terms. You can tell whether or not this is true within your heart by taking seriously what is coming out of your mouths. As we saw in Matt. 15:18 “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.”

We often teach and elevate that this salvation work of Christ is most notably seen in the way we love the world. There is no doubt that we are to love and show Christ to the world, but the true display of God’s Glory in Christ is most externally seen in the way the Church treats and loves within itself.

## **The Church Is The Result and Intent of Christ’s Transformative Work Displayed in The World**

- The result of commission -
  - *Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
  - The result of the commission is the church.
  - As the Spirit empowers the people, the church brings the people of God together in unity and displays the glory of God in our unity.
- The purpose of the Gospel preached -
  - *1 John 1:1-4 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*
- The purpose of gifts given to his followers, the purpose of your gifts.
  - *Ephesians 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*
- If this is what the church is supposed to be, then let’s build it! Let’s build the church and make it all these things.
- We often slip into viewing the Church as a culmination of its resources and ministries. These are good things, but the Church receives and produces these things, they do not define it.

- My point is that when we think about building a great church, we think about building something outside. What if the recipe is simpler than that? What if the recipe was more about you living out your transformation?

## **The Church Built Upon The Transformed Minds of the Redeemed**

- Most often, those who come to know Christ come into the Church and immediately seek to “make a difference” by giving their labor to the church or to the ministry. However, the most important service to the Church is the labor for the pursuit of Holiness and Righteousness.
- These are what the “new self” is.
- Ephesians 4:24
- So also, we see here in our text that all of what Paul mentions are in line with the believer who is focused primarily on the taking off and putting on.
- You will notice as we read through these, that the negatives are internal attitudes that represent the deceitful and corrupt desires of the old self. The positives are in line with righteousness and holiness in line with the new self.
- Read vs. 26-29
- Three main commands followed by an overall command
  - Be angry and do not sin
  - Let the thief no longer steal
  - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths.
  - Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
- This is not easy. It is easier to come to the church and “do” things to try and appease what is happening in your heart. To make you feel better about what seems to be consuming you inside.
- But if there be anything you hear and walk out with this morning, may it be this; This life of transformation is a promise for those who are in Christ.
- This means that the wall of impossibility has been scaled by Christ.
- The work of Salvation has made you a new creation. I know that here in the book of Ephesians we have mentioned that just about every week.
- Yet, once again it becomes a central concern. Once we cross into what was impossible in Christ, we are able to fight for what we could not have.
- Even when it seems like the enemy has claimed a victory, we are promised victory eternally and are able to stand back up and fight more.
- There are a few ways that the Church is the place to take off the old self and put on the new self each and every day.
- The Word of God is taught in the Church.
  - *2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*
  - There is loving judgement in the Church.
  - There is grace and forgiveness in the Church.
  - There is relief in the Church.
  - *Gal. 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

This is the kind of church we want those who are getting Baptized to enter into. The greatest work for the building of the Church is that you are laboring to put on the new self.

# Connect Group Discussion Questions

- After listening to the sermon this week what were you the most confused by? What stood out to you the most? What were you the most convicted by?
- What is the relationship between faith and displaying that faith in the world? Which one leads to the other and why is this order important in the lives of the believer?
- How does the church reflect the change and transformation in our minds? What changes in the mind of a person in pursuit of Jesus Christ?
- What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? Of the three commands before (Be angry and do not sin, Let the thief no longer steal, and Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths) which is the hardest for you? Which is the easiest? Why?
- How does the unity of the church reveal the glory of God? Why is it important to continue to lift one another up and wage war on sin with one another?

## Challenge For The Week

The church is built on the transformed minds of the redeemed and demonstrates the glory of God in the world. Everyone has a role to play in the story that God weaves throughout history and involves us submitting to the will of God to follow Him.

- Where do you withhold from God and how do you grieve the Holy Spirit by continuing to live as children of the darkness? Take some time and consider what areas of sin still persist in your life.
- The church serves as the witness of God to the world. Who has God placed in your life to witness to and share the Gospel with. Pray for them this week.

