



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
June 24, 2012
Life – there's an app for that!

desert breeze community church

Ephesians 4:17-24 **“New Self”**

One of the greatest things about Christianity is that it gives you the resources for radical life transformation. Everyone has something that they want to change about themselves unless of course they are deceiving themselves (1John1:8). In this passage we are able to see how this change comes about.

Put Off Your Old Self: vv17-19

- This is a decision to be a new person that happens at conversion. Vv17, 22, 24 (2Cor5:17; Gal.2:20; Titus 2:11-12)
- Why? Because a life alienated from God is empty & enslaving. V17 “futility” v18 “alienated from the life of God” v19 “given themselves up” (Rom1:21, 6:16)

Put On the New Self: vv20-21, 24

- It is not a self-absorbed concentration on what I must do but a God-absorbed captivation on what He has done for me. vv20-21 (2Peter 1:3)
- It is becoming practically what you already are positionally in Christ. V24 (Rom. 1:16-17; 2Cor. 5:21)
- It is not a matter of trying harder but of training wisely. Spiritual disciplines are a means of increasing our capacity to experience the presence of God & the fullness of life He graciously offers us. V24 (Eph4:1-16; 1Tim4:7-8)

Be Renewed in the Spirit of your Minds: v23 (Pro4:23; Rom12:2; Matt6:21) Paul is not talking about thinking positive thoughts but addressing the whole direction, theme and flow of your thoughts. Christianity isn't something we take up but it takes us up.

- New Identity: The Glory of God (1Cor10:31)
- New Motive: Love for God (Matt22:37-38)
- New Truth Source: The Word of God (2Tim3:16-17)



Growing

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- 1)** One of the greatest things about Christianity is that it gives you the resources for radical life transformation. Do you think most people have something that they would like to change about themselves (1John1:8)? Explain. Why do you think change is so hard?
- 2)** Read Ephesians 4:17-24. What stands out to you? What are the three components of life change that Paul gives us in vv22-24? To “put off your old self” is a decision to be a new person that happens at conversion & continues throughout life. How do these verses relate: 2Cor5:17; Gal.2:20; Titus 2:11-12?
- 3)** Explain how a life alienated from God is empty & enslaving (Vv17, 18, 19; Rom1:21, 6:16)? Explain what it means that “putting on the new self” is not a self-absorbed concentration on what I must do but a God-absorbed captivation on what He has done for me (vv20-21; 2Peter 1:3)?
- 4)** What does it mean to become practically what you already are positionally in Christ (V24; Eph4:1; Rom. 1:16-17; 2Cor. 5:17)? What is the difference between trying and training to the live the Christian life (Eph4:1-16; 1Tim4:7-8)?
- 5)** To “be renewed in the spirit of your minds” is not just thinking positive thoughts but to address the whole direction, theme & flow of your thoughts (Pro4:23; Rom12:2; Matt6:21). Explain. What is a Christian’s new identity, motive and truth source & how would it begin to change a person from the inside out? What is God speaking to you from this study? Make it your prayer.