

Ephesians 4:17–32 — Discussion Questions

1. Paul says he “insists in the Lord” that believers no longer live like the Gentiles (v.17). Why do you think Paul speaks with such urgency and authority at this point in the letter?

2. How does Paul describe the mindset and condition of those who live apart from Christ (futile thinking, darkened understanding, excluded, calloused)? Which of these stands out most to you, and why?

3. The sermon emphasized that this passage goes deeper than behavior modification. What is the difference between changing behavior and experiencing true heart-level transformation?

4. Paul says believers were taught to put off the old self, be renewed by the Spirit, and put on the new self. Why do you think Paul presents these as commands rather than suggestions?

5. How does the idea of “now but not yet” help us understand the ongoing struggle with sin after salvation?

6. Paul describes the new self as being created in the likeness of God. How does this serve as a spiritual barometer for evaluating our lives and professions of faith?

7. Which of the specific behaviors Paul addresses (speech, anger, honesty, forgiveness, bitterness, etc.) do you see most clearly reflected in modern culture?

8. Paul warns believers not to grieve the Holy Spirit. What does this tell us about the Spirit’s role in daily Christian living and sanctification?

9. The passage challenges cultural Christianity, the idea that words, affiliation, or politics define faith. What dangers arise when Christianity is reduced to labels instead of lived transformation?

10. Looking at Paul's call to kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness (vs.31-32), which one is most difficult for you personally, and what would obedience look like this week?
