

TRUE IDENTITY



IN HIM, WE ARE NEW
March 22, 2020

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV)

WEEKLY SERMON REFLECTION

- ◆ How did the sermon this week from the passage above speak to you personally?
- ◆ Why is that important to you?
- ◆ What is the biggest challenge of that truth?

HEAD

- ◆ What do you think it means to “put on the new self”? How would you describe the lifestyle of a person who has put on the “new self”?



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- ◆ Read Colossians 3:1-17. What stands out to you as similar to our Ephesians passage? What stands out to you as different?
- ◆ How do you think putting on the “new self” should define the way we respond to the current events in our world? How should this impact the way we enter into crisis, fear, or stress in our society? In our church? In our homes?

HEART

- ◆ Paul contrasts what the “new self” should look like by addressing some of the tendencies of the “old self.” In what ways do you see the “old self” present in the church? In what ways do you see the “old self” present in you?
- ◆ When Christ calls us to leave our old patterns behind, we are also called to embrace the life that He has laid out for us. What makes it difficult to lay your old patterns behind? What makes it difficult to embrace the new life in Christ?
- ◆ In what areas of your life are you longing for the “new self” to be established? What excites you about putting on the “new self”?

ACTION

- ◆ What are some practical ways you as a group can live in light of the “new self” together? What are things you can do right now that will live out these truths in the world?
- ◆ Paul is not just writing to the individual, but the church as a whole. How should this understanding shape the way we put into practice these truths as a body of believers?

