

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

1. Review

2. The question Paul is answering is “if the Gentiles were going to continue to live as Gentiles but knowing that they are forgiven”.
 - a. 1 Cor. 10:14-33
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:9-20
 - c. The answer of course is no! Paul has already divided their lives into “then” and “now”

3. How does Paul describe their old self?

4. Paul often talks about being clothed in Christ. However, here he goes on step farther by telling us that we are not only clothed in Christ but “created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”. How does that shape how we view ourselves and what does that mean for our lives and how we live?

5. The stripping off and reclothing imagery in the Bible (clothing theology).
 - a. Uncleanliness
 - i. Is 64:5; Gen 35:2; Ex 19:10-11; Zechariah 3:3-4; Lev 15:5
 - b. Shame and dishonor
 - i. Job 8:22; Ps 35:26; 109:-29; Rev 3:18
 - c. Ritual act of tearing one's clothes can signify that an offense against God and the office he has given has taken place
 - i. 1 Sam 15:27; Mt 26:65; Acts 14:14
 - d. Going naked or in sackcloth and ashes was a deep expression of impending judgement, self-denial, grief, and repentance
 - i. Gen 37:34; Job 1:20; Jonah 3:5-8
 - e. Changing into beautiful garments represented the movement from sorrow into joy
 - i. Is 52:1-2
 - f. Persistent metaphor for holiness and righteousness
 - i. Is 59:17; 61:10; Job 29:14; Ezekiel 44:19
 - g. Baptism
 - i. Romans 6:6; Gal 3.:3
 - ii. Early church

6. Paul then describes the transformation that takes place after Christ clothes us

	Prohibition	Encouragement	Reason
4:25	Having put off falsehood	Speak truth with one another	For we are members of one another
4:26-27	If you are angry, do not sin	Do not let the sun go down on your anger	You may give place to the devil
4:28	Let the thief no longer steal	Let him labor with his hands	So he might help anyone in need
4:29	Let no harmful word proceed from your mouths	But speak what is good for edification	To give grace to those who hear
4:30	And do not grieve the Holy Spirit		In whom you were sealed
4:31-32	Let all bitterness, rage, etc., be taken away	And be good to one another, forgiving one another	God in Christ has forgiven you

7. Life as an offering to God