

June 11, 2017

I.D.

“Ephesians – A Journey of Identification”

“I Am Filled”

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,” Ephesians 5:18

A. If you are going to be a Christ-follower, God calls us to leave our old life behind...

“With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.” Vs 4:17-19

1. Our old life is hopelessly confused about the life of Christ.
2. Our old life is full of darkness and unable to see the light of Christ.
3. Our old life drags us away from the life that God calls us.
4. Our old life closes our minds to truth and thus, hardens our hearts.
5. Our old life loses perspective of shame, and lives only for pleasure and impurity.

B. Our old life we formerly lived, is in opposition to our new life in Christ...

“throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.” Vs 4:22

“Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.” Vs 24

1. Our old life is evidenced in our minds by the way we think.
Vs 4:22,23
 - a. Our old mind was corrupted by lust and deception.
 - b. Our new mind is transformed as the Spirit renews our thoughts and attitudes.

2. Our old life is evidenced in our mouths by the way we talk.
 - a. Our old mouth spoke lies, but our new mouth speaks truth.
Vs 4:25
 - b. Our old mouth used foul and abusive language, but our new mouth speaks what is good, helpful and encouraging to others.
Vs 4:29
 - c. Our old mouth shared obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes, but our new mouth speaks about our thankfulness for God’s work in our lives. Vs 5:4
3. Our old life is evidenced in our motivation by how we treat life and how we treat others.
 - a. Our old motives allowed anger to control us, but our new motives are to settle relationships before the sun goes down.
Vs 4:26
 - b. Our old motives were to please ourselves, and brought sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit, but our new motives are to please God by the way we live. Vs 4:30
 - c. Our old motives were to live for ourselves, but our new motives are to be wise and make the most of every opportunity.
Vs 5:15, 16
 - d. Our old motives didn’t give thought to God, but our new motives are hungry to know and follow God’s will. Vs 5:17
4. Our old life is evidenced in our morals and how we deal with temptation.
 - a. Our old morals allowed us to give in to temptation without regard for how it impacted others, but our new morals call us to not even have a hint of sexual immorality in our lives. Vs:5:3
 - b. Our old morals allowed us to put our lustful desires first in our lives, but our new morals realize that a life of immorality, impurity, or greed is idolatry. Vs 5:5

“Don’t be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him.” Vs 5:6

C. But now, we are living in the light, so...

“For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.” Vs 5:8-9

1. Imitate God in everything you do!

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.” Vs 5:1

2. Live a life of love...just like Jesus.

“Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.” Vs 5:2

3. Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

“Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.” Vs 5:10

4. Be filled with the Spirit!

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Vs 5:18-20

June 18, 2017

“I Am Related” ***Ephesians 5:21-6:9***

June 25, 2017

“I Am a Warrior” ***Ephesians 6:10-24***

Ephesians 4:17-5:20The Message (MSG)

The Old Way Has to Go

17-19 And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They’ve refused for so long to deal with God that they’ve lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can’t think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion.

20-24 But that’s no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It’s rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

25 What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ’s body we’re all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

26-27 Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don’t use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don’t stay angry. Don’t go to bed angry. Don’t give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

28 Did you use to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can’t work.

29 Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.

30 Don’t grieve God. Don’t break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don’t take such a gift for granted.

31-32 Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

Wake Up from Your Sleep

5¹⁻² Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

3-4 Don’t allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity, filthy practices, or bullying greed. Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don’t talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn’t fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.

5 You can be sure that using people or religion or things just for what you can get out of them—the usual variations on idolatry—will get you nowhere, and certainly nowhere near the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of God.

6-7 Don’t let yourselves get taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with him. Don’t even hang around people like that.

8-10 You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You’re out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.

11-16 Don’t waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It’s a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ.

*Wake up from your sleep,
Climb out of your coffins;
Christ will show you the light!*

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!

17 Don’t live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

18-20 Don’t drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.