

The School of Christ

Ephesians 4:20-24 - NCBC, September 25, 2022

Main Point: **Jesus teaches us to live the new identity He created for us.**

- You must no longer live like you used to (17-19)
- The truth of Jesus sets you free from sin (20-21)
- God re-creates you to think and live like Jesus (22-24)
 - **Put Off:** Die to self and anything that clouds your vision of Jesus' glory (22)
 - **Be Renewed:** Be converted by God's Spirit and enabled to see Jesus (23)
 - **Put On:** Practically live out the miracle of Jesus in you (24)

Application: **Fuel your growth in practical holiness by beholding the glory of Jesus.**

5 Means of Pursuing God-given Holiness:

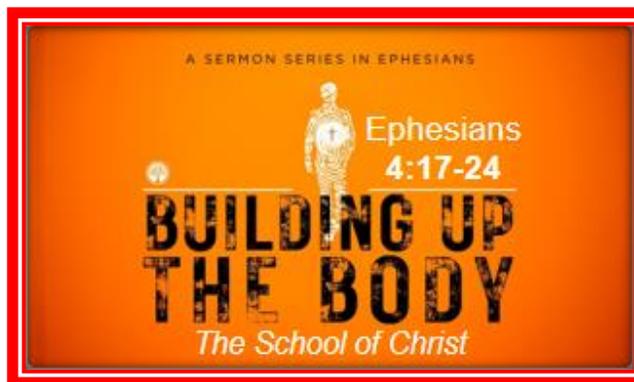
(Adapted from *Sanctification* by Riccardi)

- ✧ Scripture
- ✧ Prayer
- ✧ Fellowship
- ✧ Suffering
- ✧ Obedience

Opening Announcements:

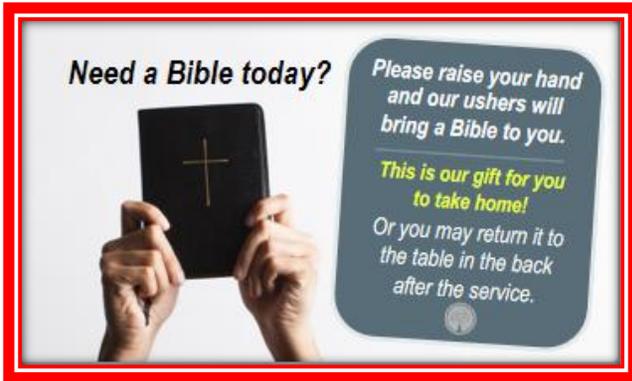
- It's not too late to join one of our Life Groups or our Ladies' Bible Study. Check out our website or reach out to our church office anytime to get connected to intentional spiritual friendship.

<<Great in Thy Faithfulness>>



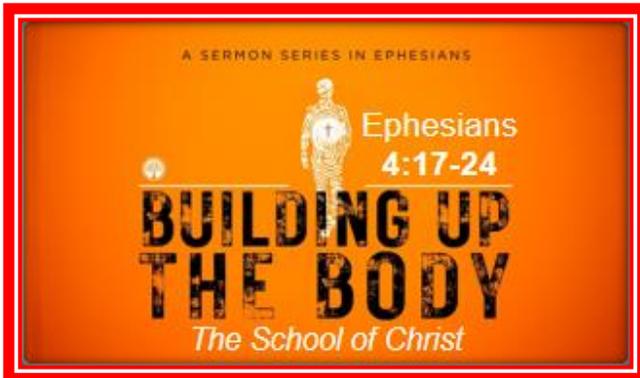
Good morning church! Where would we be without God's faithfulness? It is so good to gather together every Sunday morning to celebrate our great salvation in Christ...that is all made possible by God's grace.

Let's continue our worship now by opening our Bibles to **Ephesians chapter 4**. Today we examine the defining curriculum of The School of Christ, found in **verses 17-24 of Ephesians chapter 4**.



If you do not have a Bible with you, simply raise your hand, as we'd gladly give you a Bible to use today or take home as a gift.

And while you are preparing to read from **Ephesians 4**, thanks for your prayers for me last week as I was home sick. I'm thankful for God's healing mercies, and eager to be back worshipping with you today.



Today we conclude the paragraph we started two weeks ago in **Ephesians chapter 4**. **Verses 17-19** focused in on humanity's root problem. Those verses helped us dissect the mind and manners of unbelief.

But now we get to complete Paul's contrast and finish his thought. Today we leave the dissecting table and enter The School of Christ, as **verses 20-24** teach what it means to know Christ, and be taught inside Christ, and to live according to the lesson plans of Jesus.

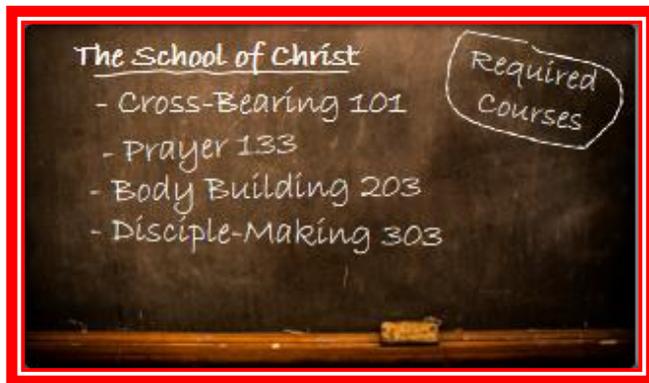
So for those who are able, please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word, as I read the entire paragraph, **Ephesians chapter 4, verses 17-24**, from the ESV translation:

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

This is the reading of God's Word. You may be seated.

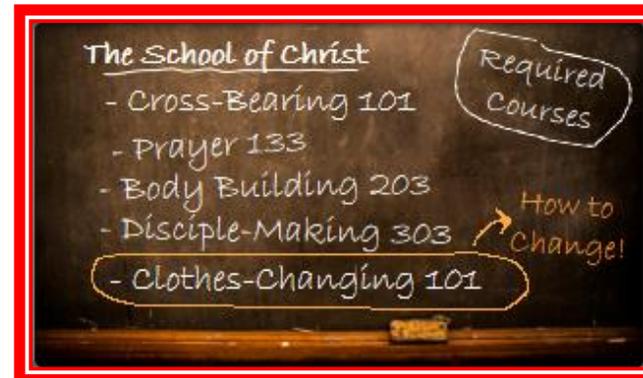
Let's Pray.

When Jesus saves you from your sin, you become a life-long learner in the school of Christ. And in the school of Christ there are a number of required courses every Christ-follower is required to take. These are not elective classes, but part of the core curriculum that necessarily define all Christians.



Every true Christian is automatically enrolled in all kinds of life-changing classes like “Cross-Bearing 101,” “Prayer 133,” “Body Building 203,” and “Making Disciples 303.” These lessons are always taught by the Holy Spirit from the syllabus of God’s Word to help every Christian become more like Jesus. Sometimes this learning comes through the quietness of a prayer closet, or through investigative Bible study, or through a worship gathering, or even sometimes through the pain of suffering. But Jesus is committed to teaching every one of His followers how to glorify Him as we live out our earthly lives in the School of Christ.

¹ Matthew 22:1-14. You can’t enter God’s kingdom if you don’t pass this



So today our Bibles are open to **Ephesians 4:17-24** where we examine the class syllabus for “Clothes Changing 101.” This class teaches Christians how to dress for God’s kingdom.¹ How to practically live as the new person that God has created us to be in Christ.

So ask yourself: is there any part of your life that you would like to change? How do you want to grow to practically look and live more like Jesus every day?

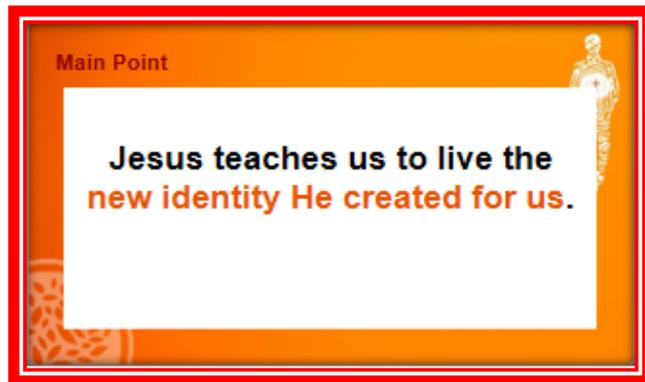
Perhaps you want to grow in your relationships with others – how you love others in your family or your workplace? Or maybe you want to increase your knowledge of God? Or your love for God and your dependence on His promises? Do you want to become more faithful in your public witness for Jesus? Or maybe there’s some sin habit you’d really like to overcome?

However you desire to grow spiritually, this life-long class of “Clothes-Changing” will be very helpful to you. But

class!

prepare yourself...because Christian change is far deeper than merely changing your outer appearance. This class could have been called “from Caterpillars to Butterflies”...because spiritual change is first about identity before activity. It’s about the *heart* before our *habits*. It’s about our person and inner desires before our performance and outward duties.

In **Ephesians 4:17-24**,



Jesus teaches us to live the new identity He created for us. Christianity is about living. It’s about walking and living like Jesus. Christianity is not only about believing a library of doctrinal truth. Christianity is a practical way of living.

Ephesians 4:17-24 teaches Christians how to change so we can practically live according to the Gospel realities we celebrated so much in **chapters 1-3**. Through the gospel of His grace, God has made us alive together with

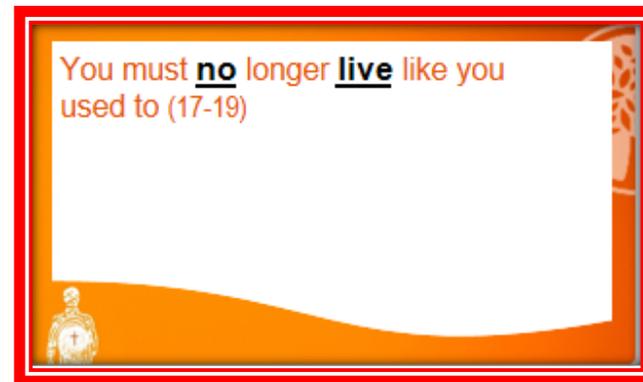
² Ephesians 2:5

³ Ephesians 2:16-22

Christ.² We who were dead in our sins have now been made alive and reconciled to God by His Spirit.³

Therefore, anyone who is in Christ is the new creation of God.⁴ The old life of sin has died, and saving faith unites us with the new life of Christ.⁵ So here Jesus teaches us to live out the new identity He supernaturally created for us.

Let’s survey this course by first reviewing **verses 17-19** which teach that,



Christians must no longer live like you used to.

Look again at **verses 17-19**. Paul urges the Christians in Ephesus,

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do ...

⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:17

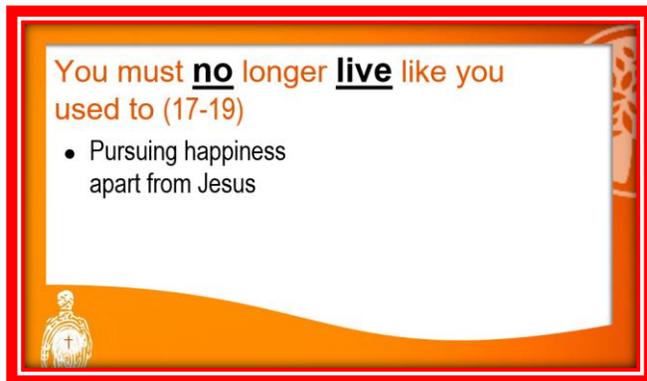
⁵ Romans 6:4-14

Listen – with the authority of Jesus Himself – I’m exhorting you Christians – stop living like unbelievers! Now that you’ve been saved by God’s grace, your way of life should look very different than how you used to live.

Verses 17-19 expose both the internal mind and external manners of unbelief:

In the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Last time we dissected these verses to learn that the root problem of all humanity is,

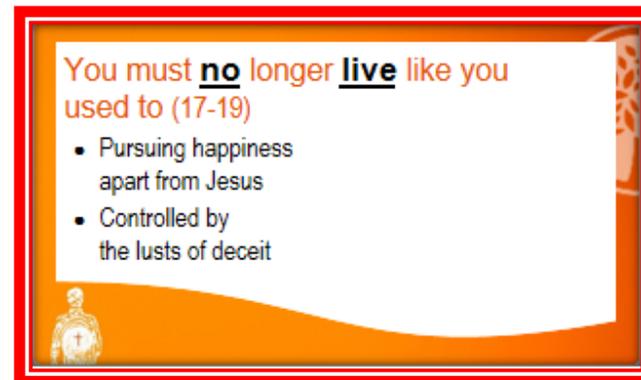


Pursuing happiness apart from Jesus. Before God made us alive together with Christ, our hearts were hard and calloused – willfully determined to remain in sin and desensitized to sin’s death. Hard hearts are voluntarily

ignorant – responsibly refusing to know God, thereby alienated from eternal life and excluded from salvation.

This stubborn refusal to find life in God darkened our understanding, making us unable to perceive the beauty of Jesus, which meant that our minds became futile – no longer working according to God’s good design.

God gave every person a mind so we could be forever happy in Jesus. God created you with a mind so you could see and savor the glory of Jesus and thereby be eternally satisfied! But sin puts us out of our minds. Sin so corrupts our minds that now our entire person is



controlled by the lusts of deceit, as **verse 22** says.

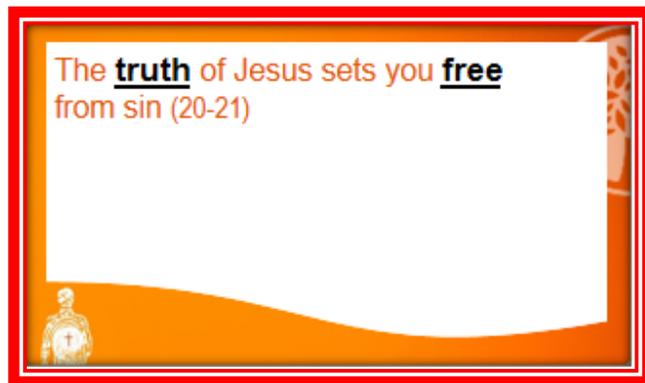
Sin makes the mind drunk on its ruthless appetite for more. The sinful mind now misfunctions and believes the lie that happiness is found apart from Jesus through the pursuit of sensuality, or unrestrained self-indulgence. But unrestrained selfishness only leads to impurity, including all kinds of moral uncleanness and sexual sin. After all, the impure heart is controlled by the deceptive lies of

greed or covetousness ...that foolishly believes happiness will finally come if I can just get a little more of what I want.

Paul lays bare the anatomy of unbelief so Christians like us can be reminded that seeking happiness apart from Jesus will only result in emptiness and vanity. We ought not be deceived by sin's lies anymore.

That's the point of **verse 20**:

But that is not the way you learned Christ!



The truth of Jesus sets you free from sin and its deceptive greed and self-serving hardness!

Notice Paul's emphasis upon gospel truth in **verse 21**, opposed to sin's ignorance in **verses 17-19**:

⁶ John 17:3

⁷ The aorist active indicative of the verb "to learn" most likely points back to the definitive time of conversation, and thus refers to the moment of

Assuming that you have heard Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus.

Paul knows unbelievers are willfully ignorant of God. But Christians have come to know Jesus personally and intimately. Those who believe in Jesus and His work for their salvation are now joyfully enrolled in the school of Christ, where Jesus is both the teacher, the subject, and the school itself!

Did you notice the unique phrase in **verse 20**?

It doesn't say, *you learned about Christ*, or *from Christ*. The original language simply says *you learned Christ!*

To learn Christ is to "come to know" Jesus Himself in a personal and saving relationship.⁶ Therefore to learn Christ refers to the miracle of our salvation by God.⁷

Just like Jesus says in **John 17:3**, "*This is eternal life, that they may know ...Jesus.*" To learn Christ is to be miraculously saved by God's grace and given a new mind which is able to perceive the beauty of Jesus and love and know Him personally!⁸

Remember Paul himself had spent 3 years⁹ pastoring in Ephesus and preaching Christ to them. So when he says, *assuming that you have heard ...and were taught...in **verse 21***, he's not so much expressing doubt, but rather

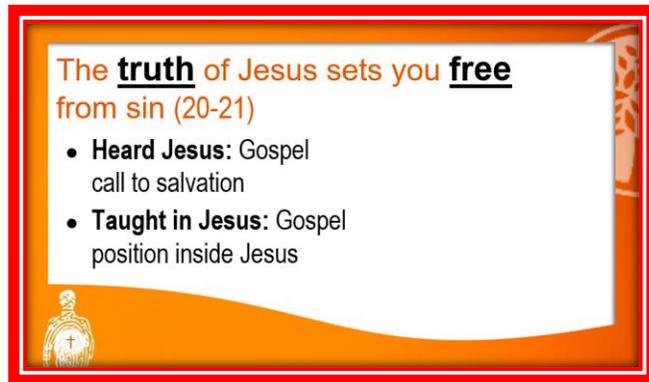
saving faith. (c.f. John 6:45; 1 John 2:4)

⁸ 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 1:8

⁹ Acts 20:31, c.f. 19:8 + 19:10 + 19:21-22

giving emphasis to what he himself knows to be true about his audience.

Paul knows that every true Christian has learned Christ, or come to know Jesus personally, because they've heard Jesus, and been taught inside Jesus.



Now notice, when **verse 21** says you have *heard Him...* it's referring to hearing Jesus' voice, or the Gospel call to salvation.¹⁰ Because in the original Greek, there's no "about" or "of" ... It doesn't say, you've heard *about* Jesus, or you've heard *of* Jesus. It simply says you've heard Jesus!

Translation: Once you've come to know Jesus and heard His saving voice, you're set free from sin's hard-hearted ignorance! Whoever has been born of God now can hear the gospel and respond in faith for salvation!¹¹

¹⁰ C.f. Matthew 11:28-30; John 6:35-37, 7:37; Revelation 3:20

¹¹ John 8:27; c.f. 10:26-27; Acts 2:39; Hebrews 3:7-8

¹² 1 Corinthians 2:16

Again, Paul doesn't say that Christians were taught *by* Jesus, or *about* Jesus...but instead Paul says all believers have been taught *in Jesus* ...meaning we've been spiritually taught how to live as a Christian from the place of our position *inside* Jesus Himself.

Don't miss the logic here: to come to know Jesus personally is to hear and respond to Jesus' gospel invitation and be placed within Christ Himself... so that now the believer's mind is the mind of Christ.¹² The believer's life is the life of Christ.¹³

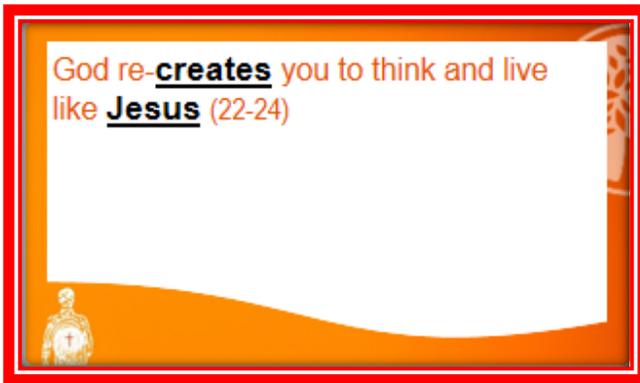
No longer is any Christian held enslaved to deceitful lusts of selfish vanity and spiritual ignorance. Because the truth is in Jesus! The person and work of Jesus of Nazareth is the gospel reality that sets sinners free from sin's lies!¹⁴

So let's come up for air for a moment. Christian – you must no longer live like you used to live. Because your former life is empty and pointless, and will never satisfy you or make you eternally happy.

Now that you've heard the truth of Jesus' call, and been positioned in the truth of Jesus by the power of God's saving grace, you are free from sin's lies. You are no longer enslaved to sin.

¹³ Colossians 3:3

¹⁴ John 8:32ff



God has re-created you to think and live like Jesus.

Verses 22-24 describe how a person lives once he comes to know Christ. In many ways, if you remove the parenthetical thought of **verse 21**, **verses 22-24** reveal the three specific lesson plans of *Learning Christ* in "Clothes Changing 101."

All who are in Christ must learn to *put off the old self*, *be renewed in the spirit of the mind*, and *put on the new self*.

Now listen carefully, because **verses 22-24** are actually referring first to what happened at the moment of our salvation, which then enables us to grow to become more like Jesus every day in progressive sanctification.

All three of these actions, "*put off*," "*be renewed*," and "*put on*" initially occur at the moment of salvation,¹⁵ as God sovereignly causes sinners to be born again and recreated in the image of His Son.¹⁶

¹⁵ "The tense (aorist middle) [of "put off"] indicates a once-and-forever action done by the believer at salvation." MacArthur

And these words picture the changing of clothes... like you might do after a sweaty workout. You strip off your dirty clothes, take a shower, and then put on clean clothes.

But there's more to Paul's clothing metaphor than just cleaning up our outward appearances. Because here Paul is talking about putting off *yourself*, and changing *how you think*, and putting on a *whole new you!*

So it might help to think about this like the changing of a uniform. Because when you change out of one uniform into another, it represents a change in identity, right?

When a prisoner takes off the prison stripes, and embraces the mentality of freedom, and puts on street clothes, and walks out of jail... the change of uniform reflects a change in identity. Different clothes indicate a change in status, or membership in a new community.

Or when a police officer puts on his uniform, he now thinks differently than civilians, because the change of clothes represents a change in responsibility, power, and identity.

So let's walk through these clothes-changing commands to better understand how God creates every Christian new in salvation... and thereby supernaturally empowers our spiritual growth in practical holiness.

First, **verse 22** says that the way you learned Christ is,

¹⁶ C.f. Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20, 5:24; Colossians 3:9-10

To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires.

Obviously, the old self refers to our former manner of life, or our unbelieving identity apart from God's grace. The Old Self is the sin nature of Adam,¹⁷ which the Bible calls the flesh.¹⁸ The old self is corrupt or ruined by a cauldron of deceitful lusts as graphically pictured in **verses 17-19**.

So Paul commands Christians – Lay aside or put off your old sinful identity.



You must die to self and anything that clouds your vision of Jesus' glory.

You no longer need to let sin reign in your life, to make you obey its passions.¹⁹ Your sinful self was crucified with Jesus at the moment of your conversion, so that you would no longer be enslaved to sin.²⁰

¹⁷ Romans 5:12ff

¹⁸ Romans 8:3-8; Galatians 5:16-17; 6:8

¹⁹ Romans 6:12

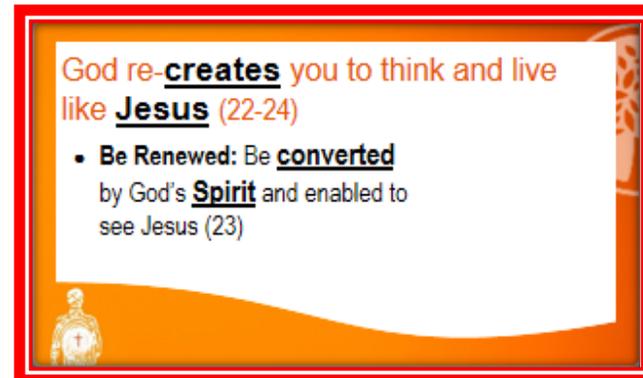
²⁰ Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20

Once our flesh has been crucified at the moment of salvation, we can now experience the Spirit-given freedom to see and savor the glory of Jesus!²¹

Self-serving desires will deceive our hearts by clouding the beauty of Jesus and trying to convince us that happiness is found in self-indulgence.

So strip off that prison uniform of sin's slavery. Die to self, and keep dying to any desire that will cloud your vision of the beauty of Jesus.²²

Then, receive God's action of *being renewed in the spirit of your mind*, as **verse 23** teaches.



To be renewed simply means to be converted by God's Spirit and enabled to see Jesus. This mind renewal is the first result of our salvation. When we are born again, we receive a saving knowledge of our Creator.²³

²¹ 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, 4:6

²² Luke 9:23-25

²³ Ephesians 1:17-23; Colossians 3:10; 2 Peter 1:3-4

Titus 3:5-6 describes our conversion as *the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit*. So the Holy Spirit is One who renews our minds, causing us to go from spiritual ignorance of God to now having the ability to know God and love God and find happiness in the glory of Jesus Himself.²⁴

At the moment of salvation, God removes our stony hearts of stubborn unbelief and gives us brand new minds with completely new spiritual and moral abilities.²⁵

But this renewal of our minds is not only a one-time act of God that limited to the time of our conversion.

2 Corinthians 4 verse 16 teaches us that our inner person is renewed by God's Spirit every day. **Romans 12 verse 2** calls all Christians to be progressively transformed by the renewal of your mind. So our desires and beliefs need to be continually renewed by God's Spirit after our initial conversion if we are to overcome sin's deception and fulfill God's happy design for our minds.

After all, the Scriptures teach clearly that the Christian's battlefield is the mind.²⁶ The reason we all do what we do is because we want what we want.²⁷ And the reason we want what we want is because we believe what we believe to be true.²⁸

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 2:14-16; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18; c.f. Ephesians 1:16-18

²⁵ Jeremiah 31:33-34, 32:38-40; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Acts 26:18; Hebrews 10:15-16; c.f. 2 Corinthians 3:3-6ff

²⁶ 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; c.f. Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-20; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:28; Colossians 2:18 (Remember, in Scripture "heart" and

So loved ones... have you considered recently how important your thoughts are? Whatever beliefs and desires fill your mind will determine how you live.



Perhaps a picture is worth a 1000 words. If you start at the top of this diagram, our minds perceive something we believe to be true. That belief excites desires within us, and those desires motivate our wills, so that we take action towards whatever we believe will make us happier.

So the old self believes lies, fueling selfish lusts, which motivate living for sensuality and impurity out of greed.

But the mind that has been renewed by God's Spirit now is able to see the glory of God in the face of Jesus as the greatest desire of the soul, which then motivates transformation and obedience which goes on to fuel greater knowledge of Christ to keep the cycle repeating.²⁹

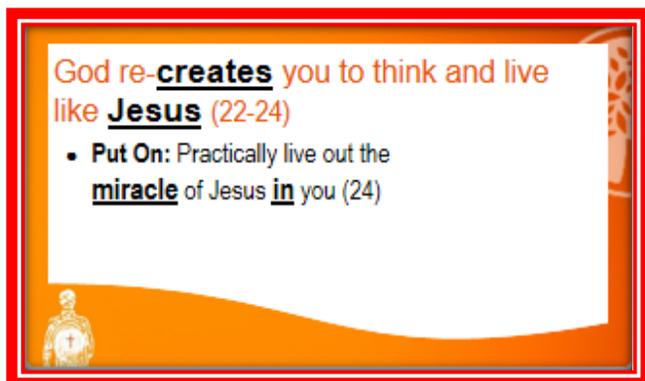
"mind" are often synonymous, since both refer to the controlling influence of the inner person.)

²⁷ James 4:1-3

²⁸ James 4:4-5

²⁹ 2 Corinthians 3:18; c.f. John 14:21; 15:10

The daily supernatural renewal of our minds is so essential to our spiritual growth church! For only a mind renewed by God's Spirit will desire to,



Put On the new self, which literally means to practically live out the miracle of Jesus in you.

Marvel with me at **verse 24** now,

And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Now again, remember. Putting on the New Self is first learned at the moment of salvation when the sinner is made new,³⁰ and Jesus' life now becomes his life.³¹

After all, circle that word *created*. This is so important.

Christianity is not about fixing up your life with a bit of religion. Enrolling in the School of Christ is about

³⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:17

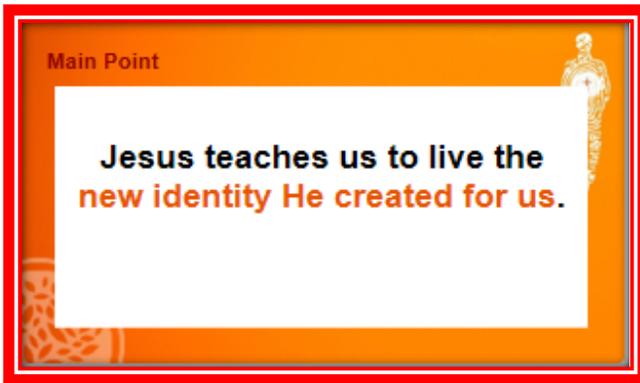
receiving a new identity – something that God Himself created in His own likeness.

So catch this! When you are born again, God restores your inner person and makes it entirely new in its character – in fact uniting you with Christ so that your new nature is now truly like Jesus in how you live – that's *righteousness*, and in how you relate to God – that's *holiness*!

And Paul ends **verse 24** putting the emphasis on "truth," which teaches that our new identity in Christ is a result of the Gospel realities that God has revealed to us in **chapters 1-3**, which are so contrary to the deceptive lies inside our old self.

So Paul's argument actually makes a lot of sense doesn't it? Christians should no longer live like the unbelievers they used to be, because the Gospel truth of Jesus has set us free from sin. In the true realities of the Gospel, God has recreated us to think and live like Jesus.

³¹ Colossians 3:3



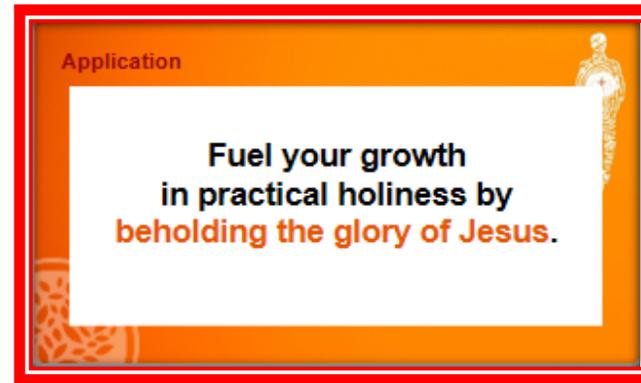
Therefore, we must live out the new identity that God has created for us in Christ every day of our lives. Since our sin nature has been crucified with Christ, we can now deny ourselves of anything that clouds our vision of Jesus' glory.

Since our minds have been converted, we can now benefit from God's gracious means that He uses to renew our minds every day, so that we might better see Jesus.

And since God has created for us an entirely new identity in Christ – that is perfectly holy and righteous, we are now supernaturally empowered to live the miracle of Christ-likeness in our daily relationships and responsibilities.

This is what it means to learn Christ, and progress in "Clothes-Changing 101" in the school of Christ.

So let me close now by offering some practical ways for you to,



Fuel your growth in practical holiness by beholding the glory of Jesus. After all, I hope it is clear by now that the Spirit's renewal of our minds is the key to our pursuit of joyful obedience and Christlikeness. We need God's Spirit to renew our minds and give us the will to work for His glory and live out the miracle of Christ-like love in this world.

But, if you've listened carefully, you've noticed that it is the Spirit of God who renews our minds. None of us can renew our own minds. Christian sanctification is always by the power of God's Spirit, since it is always first internal and supernatural. So we need to carefully understand that our spiritual growth or progressive sanctification depends on our own efforts only in the same way that a farmer's harvest depends on the farmer's efforts.

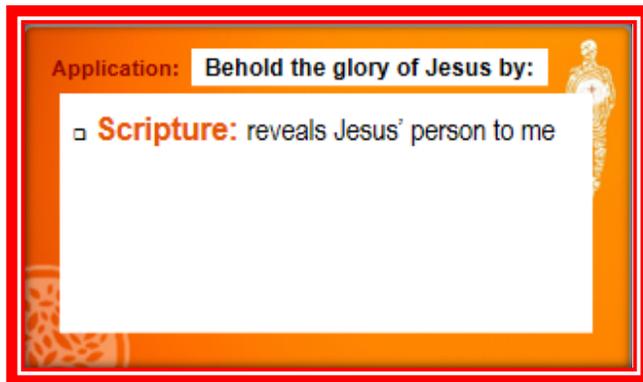
Everyone knows that only God can be responsible to cause the germ in a seed to grow. Only God is responsible for the weather. Only God is ultimately responsible for a bountiful harvest.

But if a farmer doesn't make every effort to till the ground and plant the seed, and take care of the weeds, there will never be any harvest, right? Because God chooses to bring about His miraculous harvest through human means.

And it's the same with our spiritual growth and progressive sanctification. God calls every Christian to faithfully employ 5 different means to pursue God-given holiness.

And as Christians work intentionally to see and savor the glory of Jesus through each of these 5 means, God renews our minds and causes us to make supernatural progress in putting off the old, renewing our minds, and putting on our new identity in Christ.

By the way, I'm thankful to pastor Mike Riccardi and his excellent book, *Sanctification*, for helping me to identify all 5 of these means to our spiritual growth.



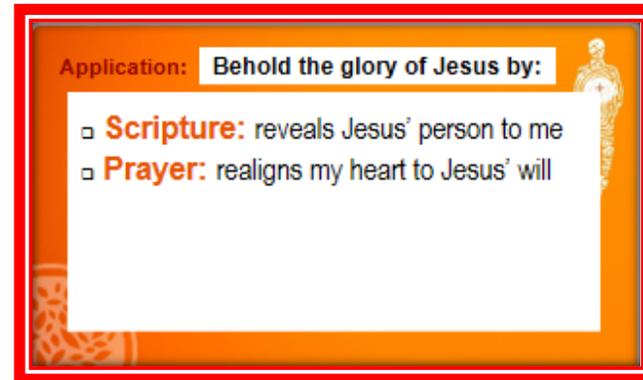
³² John 17:17; Acts 20:32; Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-

First, you progress in the School of Christ by working diligently to behold the glory of Jesus in Scripture.³²

After all, God's Word reveals Jesus' person to me. You must let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly to savor the glories of Jesus!

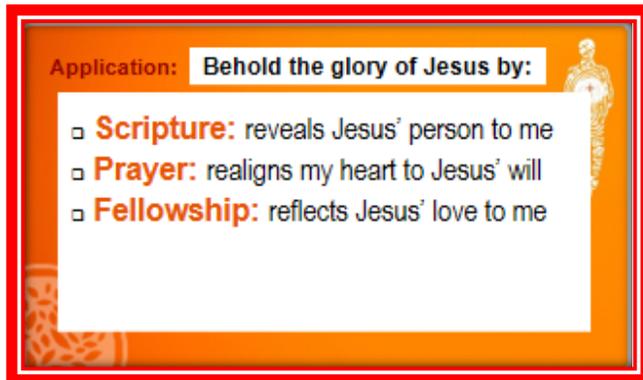
You can not love deeply who you only know superficially.

So are fueling your growth in practical holiness by working hard to meditate on God's Word every day?



17; 1 Peter 2:2; etc.

The second means to pursuing God-given holiness is **Prayer**.³³ Because prayer realigns my mind to Jesus' mind. Prayer seeks the face of God, and helps us meditate on the beauty of our Lord's perfections.



Application: Behold the glory of Jesus by:

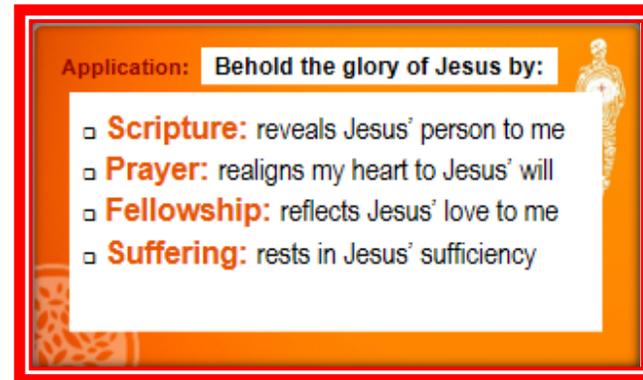
- **Scripture:** reveals Jesus' person to me
- **Prayer:** realigns my heart to Jesus' will
- **Fellowship:** reflects Jesus' love to me

Another way to fuel your growth in practical holiness is through **Fellowship**, or you could say, biblical community.³⁴ After all, when you intentionally make the effort to connect with loving biblical community, you will begin to see more of Jesus in others. True Christian fellowship reflects Jesus, and speaks the truth about Jesus to one another, and therefore helps you better see and savor the glory of God.

³³ 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 27:8; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 4:16

³⁴ Ephesians 4:13-16, 25; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:24-25; 1 John 1:7

³⁵ Psalm 119:71; Romans 5:35, 8:17, 28-29; Philippians 3:10-11; Hebrews

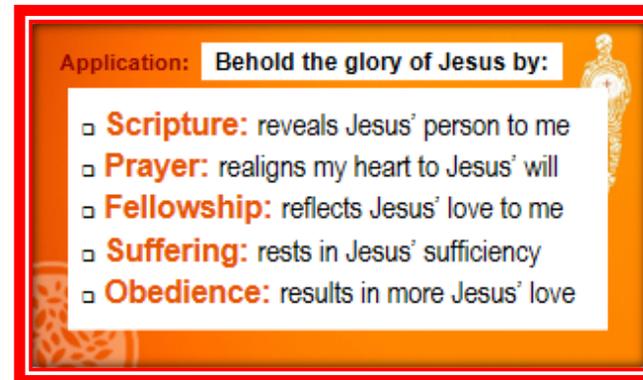


Application: Behold the glory of Jesus by:

- **Scripture:** reveals Jesus' person to me
- **Prayer:** realigns my heart to Jesus' will
- **Fellowship:** reflects Jesus' love to me
- **Suffering:** rests in Jesus' sufficiency

Another means to God-given holiness is trusting God with your **Suffering**.³⁵ Because Scripture is clear that God purposefully uses our trials and suffering to show us more of Jesus' sufficiency, and grow our character.

Finally, we must work diligently as Christians in,



Application: Behold the glory of Jesus by:

- **Scripture:** reveals Jesus' person to me
- **Prayer:** realigns my heart to Jesus' will
- **Fellowship:** reflects Jesus' love to me
- **Suffering:** rests in Jesus' sufficiency
- **Obedience:** results in more Jesus' love

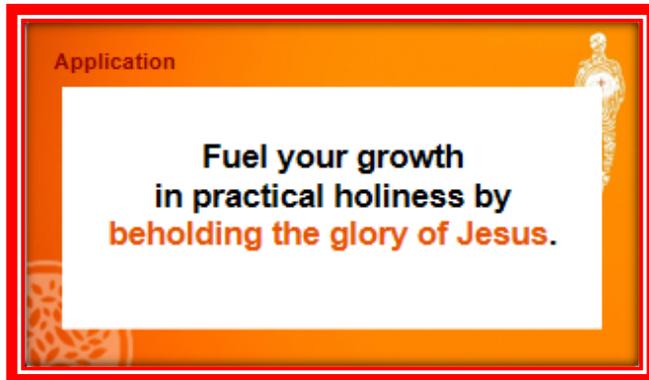
Obedience to God's Word, because **John 14** teaches that love for Jesus motivates obedience,³⁶ but whoever

12:10; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-16

³⁶ John 14:15

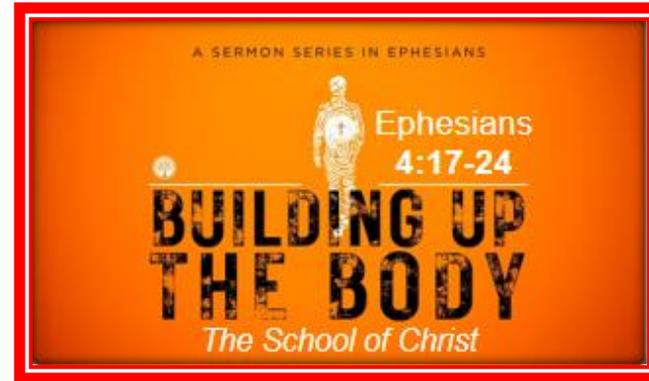
obeys Jesus will be loved by God so much that He will cause Jesus to reveal more of Himself to you.³⁷ So our obedience to God is both a result and a means of beholding Jesus' glory.

All of these means aim to saturate our minds with a greater vision of Jesus' glory! So make every effort Church to read God's Word, seek God's face in prayer, Enjoy Jesus in fellowship with His children, Savor His sufficiency in your suffering, and come to know Him better through your obedience.



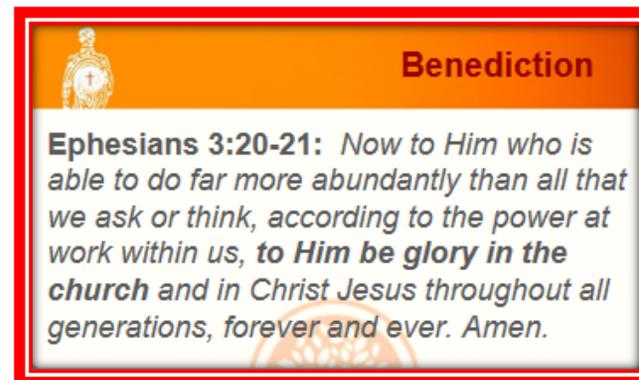
For whenever you behold the glory of Jesus through these 5 means, you will fuel your God-given growth in practical holiness. For the glory of Christ renews our minds and frees us from sin's deception, so that we no longer live according to the thinking and actions of unbelief, but instead are able to supernaturally put off the old self, be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and put on the new self which God created for us to walk in through our union with Jesus Himself.

³⁷ John 14:21; c.f. John 15:10



Let's pray.

<<Never Cease to Praise>>



Let's pray aloud our benediction from **Ephesians 3:20-21**:

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Recommended Resources on Ephesians 4:20-24:

- Romans 12:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 15:10
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Philippians 2:12-13
- Colossians 3:1-17
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Hebrews 13:20-21
- 1 Peter 1:14-16

- <https://myncbc.org/media/how-to-really-change/>

- *Sanctification*, Michael Riccardi
- *The Hole in our Holiness*, Kevin DeYoung
- *God is the Gospel*, John Piper
- *Battling Unbelief*, John Piper

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-19. How does every person think and live apart from Christ? Do you ever fall back into these unbelieving patterns of thinking and living? When you recognize these sinful “left-overs” in your life, how do you respond?
2. Read Ephesians 4:20-21. What is the significance of Paul using Jesus’ name in verse 21, compared to his title in verse 20? Discuss why it matters that saving “truth” is found in a historical person named Jesus.
3. Read Ephesians 4:20-24. What are the three lessons Christ teaches all who enroll in His school? What makes Christ’s school different from all other religions or “schools of works”?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Once a person is saved by God, how does a Christian grow in the righteousness and holiness of the truth? What practical means does God give us to pursue a spiritual growth that truly comes from His Spirit at work within us?
5. What’s one practical step you could take this week to make every effort to behold Jesus’ glory for the sake of becoming more like Jesus? Which of the “means” to supernatural transformation do you want to diligently pursue this week?

"The School of Christ"

Ephesians 4:20-24 - *Pastor Kevin Sauder*

Main Point: **Jesus teaches us to live the new identity He created for us.**

1. **You must _____ longer _____ like you used to** (17-19)
2. **The _____ of Jesus sets you _____ from sin** (20-21)
3. **God re-_____ you to think and live like _____** (22-24)
 1. **Put Off:** Die to _____ and anything that _____ your vision of Jesus' glory (22)
 2. **Be Renewed:** Be _____ by God's _____ and enabled to see Jesus (23)
 3. **Put On:** Practically live out the _____ of Jesus _____ you (24)

Application: **Fuel your growth in practical holiness by beholding the glory of Jesus.**

5 Means of Pursuing God-given Holiness: (Adapted from *Sanctification* by Riccardi)

1. Scripture
2. Prayer
3. Fellowship
4. Suffering
5. Obedience

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