

**Series: EPHESIANS: THE CHURCH EMPOWERED**

**Title: BEHAVE LIKE THE NEW PERSON**

**Text: Ephesians 4.17-32**

**Date: Nov 3, 2024**

**The Shift in behavior is needed** (Ephesians 4.17-19)

**Shifting from how we are not to behave**

**Ephesians 4.17**

*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.*

**A Different Walk**

- Behavior is described in the action of your daily walk
- The shift is from one walk to another

**A Different Mind**

- The shift is from one way of thinking to another
- Do not walk in futility of you minds – behavior starts with your mind

**Ephesians 4.18-19**

*<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.*

- The progression from your mind to your behavior
  - Darkened in their understanding
  - Hardness of heart
  - Become callous
  - Given themselves up

**Shifting to what is needed in order to change behavior** (Ephesians 4:20-32)

**Ephesians 4:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ! — <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus...*

- That is not the way
- Assuming you know the Truth that is Christ
  - You heard of Jesus - learn Christ by hearing
  - You were taught in Jesus – learn Christ in His way

- You believe in the Truth of Jesus

## **The Shift in Identity: from Old to New** (Ephesians 4.22-25)

### **Ephesians 4:22-24**

*...<sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,<sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,<sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

#### Put off your old self

- A former manner
  - Corrupted by sinful desires
- Be renewed in the spirit of your minds.

#### Put on the new self

- The new manner – the image of God
- Righteous and holy that is true (Truth = Jesus)

Not only a shift in identity, but also a shift in belief.

## **The Shift in Belief: From Falsehood to Truth** (v.25)

### **Ephesians 4.25**

*Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

- You want the truth? You can't handle the truth.
  - But Paul is going to tell them the truth.
  - This is what this daily walk looks like.
  - This is the behavior you and I are called to have.

## **What the New Behavior Looks Like**

### **Ephesians 4.26-32**

*<sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,<sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil.<sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,*

*by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* <sup>31</sup> *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* <sup>32</sup> *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

From Sinful Anger to Sinless, Resolved Anger

- Resolve it.

From thief to labor

- Do your work.

From corrupt talk to grace-building talk

- Clean up your talk.

From grieving others, to not causing grief...

- To the Holy Spirit and to others.

From bitter fruits to forgiven fruits

- Bitter fruits – wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice
- Forgiven fruits – kind, tenderhearted, forgiveness, forgiven

The Bottom Line is:

**CHANGE YOUR MIND AND CHANGE YOUR BEHAVIOR**