

Ephesians

Off with the Old, On with the New
Ephesians 4:17–5:4

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of **DISCIPLE**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- Tell us about the most genuinely mature Christian you've ever known personally.

What did **you** find most attractive about his/her life? Why that? Were you a believer at the time?

Did **non-believers** find his/her life attractive—or weird? Why do you think that?

- Pastor Doug contrasted the identity of believers and non-believers (see ¶ 2 of the **Sermon Summary**). List here what God's word says about **believers**:

[1] _____	[6] _____
[2] _____	[7] _____
[3] _____	[8] _____
[4] _____	[9] _____
[5] _____	[10] _____

Put a "✓" next to each description which you feel comfortable applying to yourself **now**. What do you learn?

List here what God's word says about **non-believers**:

[1] _____	[6] _____
[2] _____	[7] _____
[3] _____	[8] _____
[4] _____	[9] _____
[5] _____	[10] _____

Put a "✓" next to each description you **truly** think described you **before** you were saved. What do you learn?

- List the **six ways our walk must match our identity** (see ¶ 3 of the **Sermon Summary**).

[1] _____	[4] _____
[2] _____	[5] _____
[3] _____	[6] _____

Put a "✓" next to each of those which you see increasing in your life **lately**. What do you learn?

Which **one** of those traits do you **most** need to work on? How can we help you develop that?

2023.4.30

Sermon Summary

Last week we learned that the church is both unified by our commitment to Christ and in our love and care for one another, but we are diverse in our backgrounds and spiritual giftings. God has purposed that this unified-diverse body of believers represents Jesus in the world. We are to love as He loves, to live as He lived, and serve as He served. We should live differently from the world, because we are different. God has forgiven us, given us spiritual life, adopted us into his family, blessed us with every spiritual blessing, has caused his Spirit to dwell within us and has opened our eyes to a whole new realm of reality. We are to walk in that reality. We are to be in the world but not of the world (Ephesians 4:17). The unsaved people of this world are darkened in their understanding (v. 18-23; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 and Romans 12:2). How you think will determine how you live and for whom you live. Many of us have a very unbiblical self-portrait. Too often we assess our worth based upon worldly standards: our performance and appearance, relative to others, and our perception of how others may think about us.

We must reject worldly standards, dwelling instead on who God says we **believers are**: [1] **saints** (1:1); [2] **blessed** (1:3); [3] **adopted** (1:5); [4] **forgiven** (1:7); [5] **heirs** (1:11); [6] **saved**, [7] **secure** (1:13); [8] **enthroned with Christ** (2:6); [9] **created for good works** (2:10) and [10] **having confident access to God** (2:18 & 3:12). **None** of this is true of the unsaved person. Even though they are created in God's image, their list looks quite different. **Non-believers are** [1] **spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins** (2:1 & 4:17); [2] **"sons of disobedience" who follow after the course of this fallen world, indulging the desires of their flesh and mind** (2:2-3). They are [3] **alienated from God and under his wrath** (2:4, 12), being [4] **excluded from God's people** (2:12) and [5] **without hope**, [6] **God or** [7] **his promises** (2:12). Their [8] **understanding is darkened and ignorant**; their [9] **hearts are hard and** [10] **enslaved to sensuality** (4:17, 19). This described all of us prior to coming to faith in Christ. And how do non-believers live? Callously, sensually, impurely and greedily (4:19).

But believers are taught to lay aside that "old man", to stop living the way we once lived, because that old person is dead! When Jesus rose from the grave, it gave birth to the "new man" in us. **Our walk must match our new identity in six practical ways**: [1] **Tell the truth, not lies** (v. 25), because we are "members" of a living organism, the church. When we lie to one another, it breeds mistrust and hinders our mission in the world. [2] **Ensure that our anger is righteous** (v. 26-27). Deal with today's issues today. Don't allow them to spill over as unresolved conflict which gives the devil an opportunity to wreak relational havoc. [3] **Don't steal; instead work and give to others** (v. 28). We work not only to provide for our needs and the needs of our families, but also so that we can help other believers (2 Thessalonians 3:7-11). [4] **Build others up with your speech** (v. 29-30). Attack problems, not people (Proverbs 25:11). [5] **Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, not angry and bitter** (v. 31-32). [6] **No immorality or coarse jesting, but rather gratitude for pure sexuality** (5:3-4). Pornography, prostitution, the human sex trade, incest, rape, homosexuality, promiscuity and sexually transmitted diseases, and abortion. The pain and suffering is nearly incalculable! The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God; he will judge fornicators and adulterers (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 & Hebrews 13:4). Believers are to imitate God, to walk in love. When we do, our lives are a fragrant aroma to our God (5:1-2) and an acceptable act of spiritual worship and service to God (Romans 12:1).

Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time

Adam's sin rendered mankind's mental / moral / emotional / volitional ("inner man") faculties...

Monday	1.	"arrogant"	"... arrogant because of their fleshly mind..." <i>Arrogant: Making exorbitant claims of self-importance; haughty; conceited; proud.</i>	Colossians 2:18
	2.	"blind"	"...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel..." <i>Blind: Made unfeeling; made obstinate; confirmed in error or vice.</i>	2 Corinthians 4:4
	3.	"corrupt"	"...men of corrupted mind and deprived of the truth..." <i>Corrupted: Change from sound to putrid, from good to bad; wasted, spoiled, defiled, polluted, or consumed; perverted, broken, debased, or falsified.</i>	1 Timothy 6:5
	4.	"darkened"	"...the Gentiles...are darkened in their understanding..." <i>Darkened: Not enlightened with knowledge; destitute of learning and science; rude; ignorant</i>	Ephesians 4:18
Tuesday	5.	"deceived"	"...philosophy and empty deception —the tradition of men..." <i>Deceived: Caught and ensnared—and therefore misleading of a person to believe what is false, or not to believe what is true. Fraudulent, faulty and oppressive.</i>	Colossians 2:8
	6.	"defiled"	"...both their mind and their conscience are defiled ..." <i>Defiled: Made unclean or impure; fouled, dirtied, tainted, soiled, polluted, corrupted, violated</i>	Titus 1:15
	7.	"depraved"	"...God gave them over to a depraved mind..." <i>Depraved: Not enduring proof or trial; not of standard purity or fineness; disallowed; rejected.</i>	Romans 1:28
Wednesday	8.	"displeasing"	"...those who in the flesh cannot please God..." <i>Displeasing: Not satisfying to God; disagreeable to God.</i>	Romans 8:8
	9.	"ensnared/ captured"	"...may God grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, that they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captively by him to do his will." <i>Ensnared: Caught, entrapped, entangled; seduced through strategic deception.</i>	2 Timothy 2:25-26
	10.	"fleshly"	"...arrogant because of their fleshly mind..." <i>Fleshly: Corrupt, unrenewed human nature; carnality; corporeal appetites.</i>	Colossians 2:18
Thursday	11.	"foolish"	"...their foolish hearts were darkened..." <i>Foolish: Undiscerning, without understanding, unwise</i>	Romans 1:21
	12.	"futile"	"...the Gentiles walk in the futility of their mind..." <i>Futile: Empty, untrue; lacking substance to satisfy desire; uncertainty; inanity. Trifling; producing no good.</i>	Ephesians 4:17
	13.	"hardened"	"...their minds were hardened ..." <i>Hardened: Not having the faculty of discernment; destitute of intellectual light; unable to understand or judge</i>	2 Corinthians 3:14
Friday	14.	"hostile"	"...you were formerly hostile in mind..." <small>(Romans 1:30 & 8:7; Exodus 20:5; Proverbs 8:36; Luke 19:14; John 3:20; 7:7; 15:18, 23-24)</small> <i>Hostile: A foe; an adversary. A personal enemy is one who dislikes or hates another and wishes him injury, or attempts to do him injury to gratify his own malice or ill will.</i>	Colossians 1:21
	15.	"hypocritical"	"You hypocrites! You know how to analyze the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not analyze this present time?" <i>Hypocrisy: To feign an outward appearance of godliness, though actually destitute of true salvation.</i>	Luke 12:56
	16.	"ignorant"	"...because of the ignorance that is in them..." <i>Ignorant: Willfully lacking perception</i>	Ephesians 4:18
Saturday	17.	"insubordinate"	"...the mind set on the flesh does not submit itself to the law of God for it is not even able to do so..." <i>Insubordinate: Not yielding, resigning or surrendering to the power, will, discretion, or authority of God.</i>	Romans 8:7 cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14
	18.	"lethal"	"...the mind set on the flesh is death ...if you are living according to the flesh, you must die ...for the outcome of [living according to the flesh] is death ." <i>Lethal: Deadly, mortal, fatal. From the Greek meaning "oblivion—a cessation of remembrance".</i>	Romans 8:6, 13; 6:21

With the ultimate outcome that... *"...there is **none** who **seeks** for **God**."* Romans 3:11
 The only solution: "The Son of God has come and **has given us a mind so that we may know him**..." 1 John 5:20