



Sunday, August 11, 2019

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The WEALTH of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

II. The WALK of the Believer (4:1-6:9)

- A. Walk WORTHY (4:1)
- B. Walk in UNITY (4:2-6)
- C. Walk in DIVERSITY (4:7-10)
- D. Walk in MATURITY (4:11-16)

Having spoken of the Church’s diversity with individual’s spiritual gifts, Paul now draws our attention to some specific gifts displayed in the church. God has provided GIFTED MINISTERS in order to help train His people for GOSPEL MINISTRY through a GROWING SPIRITUAL MATURITY. Paul explains that this spiritual maturity should be seen through the impact of the MINISTRY OF THE WORD upon their lives.

E. Walk in PURITY (4:17-24)

Paul uses the illustration of the CHANGING OF CLOTHING to describe the visible change that is to be seen in the believer’s life. He is to have a new kind of wardrobe.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in **Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

When we *“put on”* Christ, in salvation, we receive a NEW SPIRITUAL IDENTITY and with new responsibilities. We must live in light of our new identity.

1. The CONDITION of the OLD Man (4:17-19)

Paul tells us that the **CONDITION OF THE OLD MAN IS ROOTED IN HIS THINKING**. His thinking defines his living.

2. The CHANGE of the NEW Man (4:20-24)

To “*learn Christ*” is to know Him. The emphasis here is on the relationship. It is not to “*learn [about] Christ*” as from a distance but to know Him through personal contact in time spent with Him.

“...as the truth is in Jesus:” ([Eph 4:21](#)) – Jesus was the very embodiment of the truth—the truth in person. (cf. John 14:6; 1 John 5:20)

Colossians 2:3 In **Whom** [*Christ*] are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

This process of change includes both the PURPOSEFUL DEVELOPMENT and PURPOSEFUL DISPLAY OF CHRISTLIKENESS. Within the development process is REPENTANCE from sin and RENEWING the mind with the Word. Our display of Christ is the REFLECTION OF HIS GLORY.

Illustration: Lazarus being raised from the grave. He is *resurrected* to walk being “*loosed*” from his grave clothes to enjoy the fellowship with Christ ([Joh 11:44](#)).

a. DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKENESS through REPENTANCE from SIN (4:22)

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man,...” ([Eph 4:22](#)) – This Greek word translated “*put off*,” carries the idea of laying aside or to renounce.

The idea is repentance. It implies turning away from something.

This word translated “*conversation*,” speaks of a way of living. As a garment is “*put off*” or taken off, so to must we remove from our body the “*old man*” or the old way of living. This is a DELIBERATE CHOICE as a DETERMINED ACTION.

A POSITIONAL CHANGE was made “for by grace are ye saved through faith” (Eph 2:8). Here in the practical portion of this letter, Paul is speaking of the ongoing PRACTICAL CHANGE in sanctification. We must be INTENTIONAL IN OUR OBEDIENCE.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger [*attitude of anger being irritated by others*], wrath [*sudden outbursts of anger*], malice [*a desire to injure others*], blasphemy [*speech that tears others down*], filthy communication [*dirty conversation*] out of your mouth. (cf. 1 Peter 2:1)

YOUR HABITUAL LIFESTYLE EVIDENCES YOUR HEART (Romans 8:13).

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

THE WAY OF REPENTANCE



Psalm 139:23-24 Search [*examine intimately*] me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: **24** And see if *there be any* wicked [*idolitous*] way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

This is a prayer of humility to be seen just as we are. It is a prayer that bares our soul to the One Who already knows our deepest secrets. It is a cry for help with the attitude of obedience.



Our WORTHY WALK is explained by WALKING IN PURITY. Our new life in Christ is to be marked by change. It is a PURPOSEFUL PROCESS which includes both the DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTLIKENESS. This process includes a life of REPENTANCE from sin and RENEWING the mind with the Word.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.



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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!