



## **“New Life”**

*Ephesians 4:17-32*

**Main Idea:** Believers are called to grow in their new life that's only possible in Jesus Christ.

### **New life in Jesus looks different from the lives of those without Jesus (17-19).**

Paul started with a powerful statement: “This I say and testify in the Lord.” In other words, what was about to follow was important. It was something that Paul wanted them to know, and he wanted them to know that it came from the Lord. The message was clear: Don't live your life like an unbeliever. Believers, who have been given new life through the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, should live differently. *So does your life look different from those around you who aren't believers? Does your life look different from what your life looked like before you put your faith in Jesus?* It should, and this is the call in Eph. 4:17-19. As followers of Jesus, you're called to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called. Before Jesus, you were dead in your trespasses and sins, but in his grace, God made you alive in Christ Jesus. As a believer you have new life, and the call is to live it!

1. What did your life look like before Jesus? Make a list of a few characteristics of how your mind was darkened and how you were alienated from God before your salvation. Put these characteristics together in a sentence or two to share the testimony of your life before Jesus.
2. How is your life different from unbelievers who live around you? How is your life similar to unbelievers? Some people may say that there's no difference between believers and “moral” people who are unbelievers? In Ephesians, how does God's Word respond to this opinion?
3. Do you know an unbeliever whose understanding is darkened and who is alienated from God? Share about them, and pray for them. Commit to share with them the testimony of your life before Jesus.

### **New life in Jesus looks more-and-more like Jesus (20-24).**

- *New life grows as your mind is renewed by his Word (20-21, 23).*
- *New life grows as you take off the old and put on your new life in Jesus (22, 24).*

In living a life that's different from an unbeliever, the key is living in Christ! But how do you do that? Paul reminded the believers that if they were true believers who had truly received Jesus through the gift of faith, then they knew the truth of the gospel of Jesus. Believers know that the gospel is the good news of God's grace through the work of Jesus, which makes the way for us to be adopted as sons and daughters of the King and transformed into citizens of the Kingdom of God. Believers are no longer enemies of God, dead in their sin, but they have been raised to life in Christ to be the workmanship of God in the world (Eph. 2:1-10). New Life in Jesus looks more-and-more like Jesus. *But how?* The Lord gives us two keys to growing in our new life in Jesus. First, new life grows as your mind

is renewed by God's Word. As God fills and renews your mind with his truth, your life (attitudes, words, and actions) will follow! Second, new life grows as you take off the old and put on your new life in Jesus Christ. This is the call to the surrendered and obedient life, taking steps of faith to live out your new life in Jesus.

1. Is there anything in your life that is still connected to your old, sinful life? What do you need to do to deal with this and allow God to conquer this in your life? How does your small group play a role in this work in your life? How does accountability with other believers of your same gender help you put off the old self? Are you taking advantage of these gifts of God through his church?
2. What do you need to put on in your new life in Christ? What are some areas of your life that need more of the life of Christ to take over? Share, and pray for one another.
3. How are you allowing God to renew your mind daily through his Word? Is this important? Why? How can your small group – relationship with other believers – help to encourage your time and commitment to study God's Word?

**New life reveals Jesus in practical ways, everyday (25-32).**

- *Speaking truth (25);*
- *Acting in righteousness (26);*
- *Resisting the devil (27);*
- *Laboring to care and to share (28);*
- *Speaking grace (29);*
- *Submitting to the Spirit (30);*
- *Abandoning sinful attitudes (31); and*
- *Loving and forgiving one another (32).*

In these verses, Paul laid out some beautiful elements of what life in Christ should look like, which is simply that your life should look more like Jesus living in you and through you. In providing these commands, Paul gave a list of things that should be and shouldn't be representative of a believer's new life in Jesus. The list isn't comprehensive, but it's complete. It provides a picture of a life that's hidden in Christ. All of these things imitate the life of our Lord who died to give us new life! In all of these things, we should let the Holy Spirit live and work in us, not resisting God's work but submitting to his work to grow us in the new life that's only possible in Jesus Christ.

1. Review the list of things that we should do. Which of these do you struggle with or see the least of in your life? Share with your group, and ask each other to pray specifically for these elements of the life of Jesus in your lives.
2. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? How do we do this? How does it connect to all of what God told us in Eph. 4:17-32?
3. What does your life look like after Jesus? Make a list of a few characteristics of how your mind has been renewed and how your relationship with God has changed you. In a sentence of two, put these characteristics together to share the testimony of your life after Jesus. Who can you share your testimony with this coming week?
4. Will you pray about joining a DGroup in 2024 to spend a year focusing on growing in all of these ways in your new life in Jesus Christ?