

Old and New, Part Two

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

The new self passionately pursues new practices.

- 1) Truth is absolute. Ephesians 4:25
- 2) Anger is controlled. Ephesians 4:26-27
- 3) Selfishness is set aside. Ephesians 4:28
- 4) Speech is graciously edifying. Ephesians 4:29-30
- 5) Ill will is removed. Ephesians 4:31
- 6) Tenderhearted, gracious compassion is the norm Ephesians 4:32
- 7) God is imitated. Ephesians 5:1
- 8) Love is the way of life. Ephesians 5:2

So, what? As I think about what we studied here today, how am I able to answer this question:
How can I more passionately pursue the practices of my new self?

Next week: Ephesians 5:3-14 May I nudge you to find times to read and/or listen to the whole letter this week?

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The new self passionately pursues new practices.

There is nothing passive about the Christian life! The new self, created in the image of God, must be passionately—even aggressively—pursuing closeness of relationship—with God and with those who are members of the body of Christ! Paul is revealing the practices of the members of the body, who have received the new self, as they work together and make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (4:3). As we put off the old self, we are putting off all which would decimate relationships and community. As we put on the new self, we are putting on that which shores up and embraces relationship and community. The old self is all about independence and autonomy. The new self is all about community, fellowship, relationship, and interdependence. This is a major paradigm shift that is only possible by the renewing of the mind by Spirit who has given the new life.

- 1) This week look carefully over the list of practices that Paul lays out as shown in the outline from the message. Think carefully about the implications of each and share your thoughts with the group. Several of them have a positive and negative. Consider the ramifications of each. Perhaps you have examples from your own life.
- 2) Talk about how these practices can build community and bring the unity for which the body of Christ has been designed.
- 3) Talk about how you have been positively impacted when someone displayed these practices.
- 4) Consider the “So what?” question of the week. Are there any thoughts you would like to share with the group?



CONNECT TO CALVARY'S SERMONS WITH THE BIBLE APP

During a service, find us by clicking on *more* (icon with three horizontal bars), then click on “events.”
Your device’s GPS will find our “event.” (*Save the event if you want it later!*)