Crossroads International Church Matthew Lyle

Series: Ephesians: Inconceivable Blessings, Incredible Purpose 2025-08-31

***Ephesians 4:17-32***

**Fantastic Transformation**

**Because we belong to Christ, our lives must look different.**

**Our walk is transformed—set apart from the world and shaped by Christ.**

**Topic**: Transformation

**Question**: Why should believers live differently from the world?

**Answer**: Because we have been transformed by Christ and are called to live out that new reality.

**Purpose**: To understand the contrast between our former walk and our new life in Christ and be motivated to live out that transformation daily.

**Context**: Just before this passage (Eph. 4:1–16), Paul urged believers to walk worthy of their calling—emphasizing unity, maturity, and growth in Christ. That sets up this section, where he shifts to contrast the old pagan walk with the new Christian walk.

**Reason**: This passage shows why salvation must affect daily life. It is not only about believing in Christ but also about living a radically different lifestyle—one that reflects Christ’s renewing work.

**Background:** Ephesus was a wealthy, cosmopolitan city, full of idol worship, immorality, and materialism. The Gentile way of life was marked by darkened thinking, impurity, and greed. Paul calls the believers to break from this old life and live as those who have “learned Christ.

**Big Idea:** Believers must no longer live like the Gentiles but must embrace the transformation that comes from learning Christ—putting off the old self, being renewed, and putting on the new self.

**Response**: To identify and reject the worldly values and expectations forced upon us and instead embrace our new identity in Christ by living renewed, Christlike lives.

**Applications**

* Identify and “put off” one sinful habit or pattern this week.
* Renew your mind through Scripture and prayer each morning.
* Put on Christlike actions in relationships—honesty, purity, forgiveness.
* Teach our children that following Jesus changes how we live at home, at school, and with friends.

1. **A Transformed Walk** (vv. 17–24)

*The calling of Holiness*

A. The Ugly Walk (vv. 17–19)

* Life apart from Christ = futile, dark, hard-hearted.
* It’s like stumbling around without light or hope.

B. The Trigger to Transform (vv. 20–21)

* “But that is not the way you learned Christ!”
* We have heard Christ, been taught in Him, and know the truth.
* We remember that God’s Not Dead, Jesus is alive, shout Hosannah

C. The Bad-to-Good Exchange (vv. 22–24)

* Put off the old self, corrupted by deceitful desires.
* Be renewed in your minds.

2. **Keep Walking** (vv. 25–32)

*The cultivation of Holiness*

A. Speak Truth, Not Lies (v. 25)

* To be taught the truth in Jesus (v. 21) means truth-telling becomes our habit.
* We cannot fool or deceive one another as the world does.
* Truth unifies the body — because we are members of one another.

B. Anger Without Sin (vv. 26–27)

* Anger is not always sinful — even Jesus got angry (Mark 3:5; John 2:15).
* But anger gives no excuse to sin (unkind words, harmful actions).
* Don’t let anger last overnight — or the devil gets a foothold.

C. Work to Give, Not Steal (v. 28)

* Stealing is wrong in every culture — no one wants their stuff taken.
* Instead of taking, Christians are called to work:
* To meet needs for ourselves and family, to contribute to others, and to support the work of God.
* Working becomes an act of faithfulness and unity.

D. Build Up with Words (v. 29)

* Bible’s version of: “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.”
* Speak only words that build up and encourage.
* Words should help the listener, not harm them.

E. Don’t Grieve the Spirit (v. 30)

* Unwholesome, harmful words grieve the Holy Spirit.
* Negative words sometimes are necessary (teaching, correction), but always aim to help, not hurt.
* Our intent must be to unify, not divide.

F. Put Away Sin, Put On Virtues (vv. 31–32)

* Take off five sins: bitterness, rage, anger, shouting, slander.
* Put on three virtues: kindness, compassion, forgiveness.
* Because God has treated us this way in Christ, we must act the same toward others.

**The gospel not only changes our hearts—it changes our walk**