**Ephesians 4:17 – 5:7**

April 12-13, 2017

Read 4:17 – 4:24

VS 17-19: What was Paul speaking against with respect to how the Gentiles were living? Why was this so damaging to their relationship with God?

Vs 20-24: In what ways does learning about Christ change the way in which we should live? What does it mean to put off your old self? What does it mean to be made *new* in the attitude of our minds? What specific things in your life do you believe God is calling you to “put off.”

What does it mean to you to put on the new self? And what impact does it have on you that this “new self” was created to be *like God in righteousness and holiness*?

Read 4:25- 5:7

VS 25-28: Which of the things mentioned in these verses might you struggle with (anger, honesty, giving, etc.)?

Vs 29 Do you believe we speak with wholesome talk to one another? What does it mean to build each other up according to their needs? Unwholesome talk is likely one of the toughest things that we struggle with and let ourselves get away with (we gossip, slander, etc.) so what are ways that we can really be transformed into speaking with good encouragement toward one another?

Vs 30: What do you believe it means to grieve the Holy Spirit? Why might we choose to grieve the Holy Spirit? What are results of doing so?

Vs 32- 5:7 speak of specific commands that we must do, which one’s stand out to you? What can you work on this week? Why is it necessary to grow in these ways?

5:1 What does Christ’s forgiveness *of you* mean to you? Does it help to remember this so that you can forgive other’s more easily?

5:2 What is God’s example that we should follow? What does it mean to walk in love (be specific).

5:3 What is your understanding of why sexual immorality, greed, or any kind of impurity is “improper for God’s holy people”? Is it helpful to understand *why* this is improper, instead of just seeing this as a list of commands of do’s and don’ts?

5:4: Paul says to not be obscene, have foolish talk or coarse joking, and then follows that up with- *instead* have thanksgiving. What is the connection between thanksgiving and those things he says not to do?

5:5 This verse is a very strong command (it says we can be “sure of this”), that these types of people of whom he speaks cannot have any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. What does this mean to you, how do you understand (put it in your own words) what Paul is speaking about here? Why is there a connection between impurity and greedy with respect to idolatry?

5:7 What do you think Paul means by not being partners with those who are disobedient? Why does he give this warning?

Conclusion

Which of these commands do you struggle with? Which of these can you pray over so that the Spirit can strengthen you to overcome the things which you may no longer want to do?

Are you encouraged or discouraged in studying this passage? To revisit a question from before, how can we read these verses and be encouraged to grow by the Spirit, instead of just seeing this as do’s and don’ts? Do we desire to become more like Christ, or is this also a struggle?

How can you pray for one another, specifically praying to grow in the ways that God is calling you to grow? Discuss what it means to rely on the Spirit and be transformed.