

Ephesians 4:17-32

Week 8 - Renewed In The Image Of God

In Ephesians 2, we saw that God has taken us from being spiritually dead and made us alive in Christ. He then brought us into His family, the Church. We are a people who have been created by God for good works. This passage shows us how we can be renewed in the midst of God's people, and how we can walk in the good works God prepared for us. We have been shown mercy in order that we can show mercy, and this passage helps us unpack what it means to live this way.

Section One: Renewed

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NIV)

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

? What does it mean to have a hardened heart? How does that play out in our modern lives?

? How does being 'made new in the attitude of our minds' lead us to live distinctively from the world?

? What does it mean to 'put off the old self' and to put on the 'new self'? How do you see this at work in your life today?

Section Two: Renewal In Action

Ephesians 4:25-32 (NIV)

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

? What does it mean for us to be ‘members of one body?’

Walk through this passage together (v. 25-32) with the goal of filling in each of these 5 categories (MIND - EMOTIONS - ACTIONS - TONGUE - HEART) with the different characteristics marked out in the passage.

Table: “Out with the old, in with the new.”

	Old Self	New Self
Mind	• •	• •
Emotions	• •	• •
Actions	• •	• •
Tongue	• •	• •
Heart	• •	• •

A Renewed Mind

? What does it mean to 'be made new in the attitude of our mind'? How do you see this in your life?

Renewed Emotions

? The passage highlights two ways we can handle our emotions differently. We can be slow to anger and we can be quick to forgive instead of harboring anger. What emotions are sometimes a challenge for you to handle well?

Renewed Actions

? Why is generosity a mark of people who have been made new in Christ? How do you see generosity playing out in your life?

A Renewed Tongue

? How should our speech be changed by the gospel?

A Renewed Heart

? How does a renewed mind impact what we desire in our hearts? How do we still struggle with affections in this life?

For Discussion And Accountability

? How should we be helping each other walk in the truth of Jesus, especially as it relates to putting on the new self?