

Ephesians Handout Week Twenty

Aerial view:

*Caution-

2 Cor. 5:17, Rev. 21:1-

Chapters 1-3 New Identity -> Chapters 4-6 New Community

What we already know about the new community: Characterized by charity, unity, diversity, maturity and

17 So this I say, and testify in the Lord, that you walk no longer as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to every self-indulgence for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Testifying in the Lord:

Phil. 2:15 To walk:

Madeleine L'Engle "To be a witness means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist."

Two big pitfalls

1. Aren't *those* people awful.

"you walk **no longer as the gentiles walk**: Eph. 2:1

How do we think about *those* people?

Why do we remember who we used to be?

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2. Most people aren't that awful.

Those who walk in the **futility of their minds**:

Prov. 23:7

what we believe about ourselves, the world, other people, affects the way we behave. Moral conduct is an outgrowth of mental processes. Orthodoxy (right thinking/belief) determines orthopraxy (right practice).

Right thinking—

Example. If God is the author of life, then

Example. Cussing? Really? Jn. 1:1

If what we know and believe in our heads is beautiful, it will work its way out in our feet.

BUT Behavior doesn't make us good. God's goodness woos us to behave.

Where are we?

Where are unbelievers?

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

The process. The nuance.

Futility:

1 Jn. 2:17, 1 Cor. 3:20, Acts 14:15, Gen. 6:5

Why so futile? Rom. 1:18

Their hearts are hard, porosis

Ignorance agnoia

Jn. 14:16, Col. 1:16

excluded, alienated from the life of God:

Darkened understanding: Rev. 9:1, Rev. 16:10

Not too appalled---Jn. 3:19

Not too cocky-- Col. 1:9

Callous: apalgeo from which we get our word analgesic.

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to every self-indulgence for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Given themselves over: Paradidomi

Mat. 20:18, Rom. 4:23-25, Gal. 2:20, Eph. 5:25

Every self-indulgence: Aselges.

the practice (ergasia) of every kind of impurity (moral uncleanness) with greediness

ergasia-

Impurity-

Greediness-

Wow Paul. How dark!

CS Lewis: It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

Subtle truths of “no longer gentiles”

-We are set apart spiritually, as believers from unbelievers. 1 Pt. 1:1

-We are set apart culturally, to some extent.

Why do we have to be different?

Discussion

How would you counsel someone who claims to be a Christ follower but does not seem at all bothered by their sin?

How would you like to be approached about unaddressed sin in your life?