

Ephesians Handout

Week Twenty-One

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. 20 But, as for you, you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if, as I assume, you heard Him and were taught in Him as the truth is in Jesus.

Jesus is the substance of the teaching, Jesus is the teacher, and Jesus is the context in which it is taught.

1. He's the substance: You did not learn Christ. Phil. 1:21, Phil. 3:8, 1 Cor. 2:2, 1 Cor. 1:22

If indeed/as I assume:

2. He's the teacher: You have heard from Him. Jn. 10:27, Jn. 10:16, Jn. 5:25, 1 Thes. 4:2

3. He's the context. You have been taught *in Him*.

*The immensity of the tag line. ...since truth is in Jesus.

The relationship we have that transforms us and the concrete instruction we live by is all centered on—

What have we been taught is the way to real change?

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is corrupt in accordance with the deceitful lusts, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside all falsehood...

It's all Greek to us! The moods, the voices, the tenses. It turns out that's important.

Infinitive: The idea. To walk, to sing

Indicative: The fact. She is walking. He is singing.

Imperative: The command. Drive the car. Sing the songs.

Verses 22-24 are in the infinitive. "To be putting off" (already) "To be being renewed" "To be putting on" (already)

Verses 22, 24 aorist tense-past completed action. Whereas v. 23 is a present participial-ongoing

Hard work of translating, lots of context, pervasive Biblical concepts. The already and the not yet.

Where do we land?

It is a statement of truth about what has happened to you, with an imperatival/command intent.

Yes, this is already true. Now live like it. That old self is dead. You know that. You have been taught that. But if you need to go through the thought process of reckoning it as dead every day, then do that.

Col. 3:2

Col. 3:9,12

How long did it take to get the Egypt out of the Israelites?

*Why the aorist/past tense matters. Wrong interpretation leads to wrong methods and wrong motivation.

How is our new self described? In the likeness of God
Job 40:9-14 Gal. 3:27

Gen. 1:26

Nice metaphor. How does it work?

-Low hanging obviously rotten fruit:

-The not so obvious fruit:

What is the old self—

How do we put it off? Just stop it?

We need to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. The Holy Spirit or the governing spirit of our mind?

Titus 3:5, Eph. 3:16, Rom. 8:13

What are we asked to do? _____

Rom. 12:2

2 Cor. 4:16

Ex. 34:10

What else can we do to actively receive?

- Ps. 51:10

-Expose ourselves

-Don't let your mind camp on lies. Phil. 4:8

-Believe in

Heb. 10:10, Jn. 17:17-19, 2 Pt. 1:2

One more step. We can't run around necked. Lk. 11:24

24 put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

What is the likeness of God? Col. 1:15

1 Pt. 2:9, Eph. 2:20, Col. 3:12, 1 Jn. 3:1, Eph. 1:4

Practical stuff.

-

-

Caution.

To obey is hard. To disobey is impossible. 1 Jn. 3:9

Discussion

Share a "new creation" story-- one where you knew the old self and had the privilege of seeing the new self emerge. It can be either someone else's story or your own.