



Week of February 9, 2020: Ephesians 4:17-20

Discussion Questions Set #1

“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. 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. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.” (Ephesians 4:18-20)

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.” (Romans 1:21-23)

1. Why do you think it is important that as followers of Jesus, we are aware of the walk we used to walk before coming to faith in Jesus? How might this recognition help us as we seek to follow Jesus?
2. Scripture indicates that the result of rejecting God is the development of futile thinking and darkened understanding. Why do you think this is the case? How does this understanding shape how we view those yet to follow Jesus?
3. In sermon we learned that a hardened heart results in insensitivity to the things of God – His will, his love, his guidance and direction – but also leads to a nearly indiscriminate engagement in sensuality – the pursuit of all kinds of sinful physical pleasures. Why do you think insensitivity to God results in indiscriminate engagement in sensuality?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“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; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:21)

“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1)

“Run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

1. In sermon, I used the analogy of learning to walk on my surgically repaired foot to help explain what occurs as we learn to walk our new walk in Jesus. What aspects of this analogy did you find helpful?
2. How does a renewed mind affect our new walk?
3. Why do you think we sometimes struggle with putting off the old self? What is it about the old self that seems so attractive?
4. Why is it helpful to know that not only do we have the Holy Spirit helping us to shape our new walk in Christ, but also an example in Christ to pattern our walk after?
5. Share an example of how you’ve experienced God shaping your walk in Christ.

Discussion Questions Set #3

The tongue is “a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body” and “a restless evil, full of deadly poison”. (James 3:6-7)

“Be very careful, then, how you live (how you walk) —not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15)

1. In sermon, we learned that not only do we need to walk a new walk, but also to talk a new talk. Discuss the following aspects of our new talk: speaking in truthfulness, avoiding angry outbursts, and removing unwholesome talk from our mouths. Why do you think Paul specifically names these three aspects of our speech? How does each contribute to maintaining unity in the church?
2. In sermon I suggested that Paul closes this passage by saying “*time is of the essence and if we do not capture each moment before us for Christ, it is swallowed up in the evil of the days*”. As you consider that quote, what thoughts come to mind? How might realizing this shape our living?