
SERMON NOTES June 5, 2022

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Ephesians 4:17-24
Redefining Morality
Pastor Mike

- I. Understanding _____ moral thinking
- a. _____ thinking
- b. _____ from the truth
- c. Develop a _____ conscious
- d. Redefine _____ into _____ to be pursued

II. The key to _____

The ultimate goal isn't _____...

...The ultimate goal is _____

III. Taking off _____ to put on _____

a. The first step of _____ the old

b. Putting on our new _____

The distinctive of our lives shouldn't be _____...

... but in the _____

c. Putting on Christ as _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In Ephesians 4:17 Paul teaches that our sin is ultimately rooted in 'futile' thinking.
 - a. Can you think of an example in our culture where futile thinking has led down a path of moral decline?
 - b. Is all sin ultimately rooted in wrong thinking? Can you think of a persistent sin that isn't ultimately rooted in wrong thinking?
 - c. Paul elsewhere teaches that our struggle with sin is rooted in our evil or natural desires. Which comes first, our broken thoughts or our evil desires? Do we desire wrong things as a result of our wrong thinking, or do we think in broken ways in as a result of our wrong desires?
2. When we struggle with temptation and sin as followers of Christ, is our struggle also rooted in wrong and deceptive thinking?
 - a. If so, how can we learn to see where our own thinking is broken?
 - b. Can you look back at a past struggle with a sin and now see how that struggle was rooted in wrong and deceptive thinking and beliefs?
 - c. If you think about an area of sin that you are currently struggling with, what wrong thinking and beliefs may be behind that struggle?
3. Paul teaches that victory over sin will come not through greater self-discipline, but only through a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - a. What have you been taught over the years regarding how to deal with temptation, and overcoming patterns of sin?
 - b. If victory over temptation is rooted in a closer relationship with Christ and being, "renewed in the spirit of your minds," what strategy does this suggest for dealing with temptation?
4. If asked, the vast majority of people would say the distinguishing mark of Christian morality is the sins we avoid (i.e.; we don't lie, steal, or curse, etc.). But Paul teaches that the distinguishing mark of Christian morality should not be the absence of these sins, but the presence of righteousness.
 - a. Why do we so commonly define morality in negative terms (the absence of sins) rather than in positive terms (the presence of righteousness)?
 - b. Which is the superior moral system? How will our life look different if we live by a negative moral system than if we live by a positive moral system?
5. Is it possible for a person to 'dabble' in an area of sin without it resulting in the process of moral decay described in verses 17-19? Please describe your answer.
6. Is it possible to "put on Christ" without first taking off sin? What about a person who is actively seeking to grow in their relationship with Christ, but who has one area of known sin they are unwilling to "take off" and surrender before Christ? How does that one area of sin impact the rest of their spiritual growth?