

Ephesians 4:17-32 Extreme Makeover: God Edition

The craze started in 2003 with Extreme Make over Home Edition

A)Ty and the gang would take a house and completely make it over – usually for a family that was in need – couldn't afford the make over

B)Our Society is obsessed with Make over stories – Line up for HGTV

1)Property brothers, Fixer upper, Flip or Flop, Rehab addict, House hunters, Good Bones, Boise Boys, ETC

C)That is just a small snippet of the Shows that are out there-

1)But we do love seeing the transformation that happens – old house – new house – Wow!

And it is not just houses – it is also people –

A)Transformation of People, - Weight loss or exercise plan –

B)Fashion Conscious world - the simple changing of one's wardrobe – can give someone a whole new look –

1)A whole new you

C)You look like a different person: Same person just new hairdo – new clothes Lost weight – same person on the outside.

D)But we are attracted to those stories – especially when they are real

Did you know that God is in the Makeover business

A)We are talking extreme makeover – ULTIMATE TRANSFORMATION !

B)That is what we have before us here today in Ephesians 4 RD V.17-32

We noted in our previous study that Chapter 4 marks the 2nd section of the book of Ephesians –

A)Emphasis moves from our identity – who we are in Jesus

B)That was the focus of Chapters 1-3 – Identity

C)Chapter 4 signals a shift in the book of Ephesians
Our walk – our manner of life –

D)the idea is this: because this is who you are in Christ – **this is how you should live/walk**

Paul believes that New birth should result in New behavior

A)That new life should result in New Living – new lifestyle.

B)We noted that Paul began this section on the walk – with this decree 4:1 – Walk in a manner worthy of your calling – (Weights – balance)

C>Your manner of life should be equal to your calling as a person who is now in Christ – part of the family of God

D)Walk in a manner worthy of your calling is the over arching theme of this next section

Noted that Paul declared that would first be seen in our interpersonal relationships in the body of Christ

A)Walk in Unity – One Body in the Lord

B)HOW ? Endeavoring to keep the Unity

1)Celebrate our Unity

2)Appreciate our Diversity

C)Paul continues this theme of walking in a manner worthy of our calling with this next exhortation –

1)what that looks like

D)Big idea -A walk – that looks different from the world

17This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk **as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

The Condition of the Unbeliever: - Symptoms

A) They walk in The Futility of their minds – according to their own wisdom – they do what is right in their own eyes

B) This doesn't mean that they were stupid, having no understanding of what was around them.

1) But it does mean that they didn't understand things rightly and fully.

“futility, = emptiness, that which is wasted on nothing.”

C) Live for here mentality –

1) Problem - short lived – doesn't last

2nd Their understanding is darkened – they don't really understand what Life is really about

A) Constant search for meaning and purpose – why am I here – what is this all about

3rd - They are alienated from the very life of God – Real living escapes them

A) We were created to know God and live in relationship with God –

B) We find our meaning and purpose in God – the unbeliever is alienated from that

Reasons Because V.18 - of the ignorance that is in them,

A) Not a ignorance of not knowing something or not having all the facts – **it is a willful ignorance**

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of Knowledge because they have rejected Knowledge*

B) The evidence of God is all around them – but they ignore it

Reason #2 Because of the blindness of their hearts

A) Blindness here is better translated – stubbornness or hardness of their hearts

B) It speaks of a heart confronted with truth, but which refuses to embrace that truth.

C) It is what Paul refers to in Romans 1:18, when he mentions those *“who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”*

1) The word *“hold”* in that verse means to *“oppress.”*

D) It speaks of those who hear the truth, know the truth but who refuse to acknowledge or embrace the truth

Result – They have become past feeling V.19

A) There is no longer any conviction – heart is so hard – God's word has a hard time penetrating

B) Like there is a giant Callous on your heart – no longer any convictions / any morals / standards

C) Results in immoral behavior - have given themselves over to lewdness, -perverse sexual practices

1) to work all uncleanness with greediness.

D) Living to please self at all cost.

That is a good description of our culture.

A) Living to please self - past feeling

B) Entertainment that promotes that life style

C) Our world promotes that lifestyle

D) And Paul was writing to people in Ephesus who had been associated with That kind of lifestyle

1) Paganism and immortality was prevalent

E) Temple to Diana - temple prostitutes

1) Live for the Flesh mentality

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE!

A) 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

B) To “learn Christ” is an unusual phrase that occurs nowhere else.

1) Paul does not say, “you did not learn about Christ,” but rather, “you did not learn Christ in this way.”

C) Learned = Didasko means to teach a student in such a way that the will of the student becomes conformed to the teaching taught.

D) **Have been taught by him** – is better translated – taught in Him – the truth in Jesus

Paul in essence is saying that your coming to Christ wasn't just about the assimilation of truth

A) Yes involves learning truth about Jesus that - know the truth and the truth will set you free

Aa) He who the son of man sets free is free indeed

B) See it is more than just the intake of information - it is the impartation of life.

C) Another way that Paul - could have said this is - But you have not so experienced Christ

Analogy: On Friday - driving from our Hotel to the Church in San Salvador - Van 12 people

A) San Salvador is a big city - traffic think downtown SD

B) Our driving is going to take us to their version of KFC for lunch

C) Heavy traffic - all of a sudden - he turns down a 3 lane one way street - Huge arrows on the street - 1) Pointing this way - What is the big deal

D) He turns going into head on traffic - WHAT IS HE DOING!

1) No one is honking - cars are moving going around - We drive about a block

E) He did this - so he could pull into the parking lot of the Chicken place

That is when I asked - why did he do that - that was a one way street?

A) Traffic laws down here are more of a suggestion

B) I would say: that is not how I learned driving
1) That is not my experience

C) We don't turn the wrong way - on one way streets in America

That is what Paul is getting at here:

A) That is not your experience in Christ

B) You are a new creation in Christ - old things have passed away - behold all things have become New

C) You have been imparted with the very life of Christ who is living inside of your heart - HIS SPIRIT

D) You learned to be surrendered to him - YIELDED TO HIM

NOTE: In v. 30 Paul says and do not grieve the Holy Spirit by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption -

A) Again the idea - Something has happened to you - sealed with the Holy spirit - Mark of ownership

B) Interesting to note: the Holy Spirit can be grieved.

C) What grieves him the most? When saved people live like unsaved people.

D) When free people live like they are bound.

If you are a parent you get this- your kids fail to live up to their potential - grieved -

A) Know could do better - 1st grade - little a's

B) You can do better than that - A/B

D) Or think this way: how would you feel if your son or daughter acted like a stranger -

1) Knock on the door - come in the house

2) Permission to use the bathroom / kitchen/ clothes

E) Grieved -son I love you and have so much for you and you are missing out.

Because of our position in Christ - new creation - new person

A) New man = a new wardrobe

²² that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your **mind**, The spirit of God working through the word of God!)²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Paul uses an interesting analogy here - picture of taking off an old coat and putting on a new one.

A) Why? Because you have been made new - You have been made clean - So act like it

B)Think of it this way – You are working all day in the yard – hot summer – sweaty – dirty –

C)After you are done – You go in the house – you take off those dirty stinky clothes and you shower –
1)after your shower – what do you do ?
You put on new clothes –

D)Clean man needs clean Clothes - New man = new clothes –

Your are a new creation in Christ

A)Put off the former clothes – the former manner of life – former conduct

B)You are no longer living to please your flesh – but now you are living to please God
1)Bring him honor

C)Starts in the mind: My mind is being impacted by the truth – Who I am in Christ
1) No longer being deceived by lust

D)My mind is in daily need of renewal – happens through the study of God's word

1)Communion with Jesus – His word washes / transforms

Here is the mistake that we often make – We focus only on outward behavior

A)We only focus on the outward things – the blatant things –

B)Not partying anymore – not doing drugs anymore
1)Not engaging in sexual immorality anymore

C)And That is AWESOME!

But Christ likeness is not just about not doing wrong behavior – it is about becoming – new person.

A)Jesus is wanting to impact – our mindset – our attitudes

B)Heal hurts that lead to – wrong attitudes and actions

C)See God is in the business of total transformation

**1)His goal is to conform us into the image of Jesus
To make us more like Jesus**

Here is why this is so important for us to understand

A)there are whole segments of the church – kids who came to Christ young –

B)Who have not engaged in immoral living – partying etc –

C)Religious people who came to Christ out of their religious experience –

1)They lived a moral life – they weren't partying etc
2)But their lives were still marked by – the old man

**D)They are still holding on to inward stuff
That shapes their attitudes – behavior**

1)Hurts – that keep us in bondage to bitterness

E)Shame – that keeps us in bondage to bad behavior

Pride that keeps us in bondage to Anger and wrath because we believe that we are some how entitled –

A)I deserve to feel this way – so we treat others poorly

B)My point is this – Church – we must not only see Carnality or Carnal living as the blatant outward sins

1)Carnality is – means of the flesh – of the old man

C)And I can live Carnally – when I hold onto attitudes and mindsets that are not healthy

D)God is wanting to do a totally make over on us

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

God is committed to that work of transformation

A)Life long process – sanctification

B)That is where Paul takes us in **ADOPTING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE V.25-32**

1)From *Put off*, to *put on*, to **now put away...**

V.25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

C)We have all seen **those radical transformation** pictures where someone has gone through an extreme weight loss

D)Once weighed – 450lbs now weigh – 200 – What is one of the first things they do when the lbs drop? – buy NEW CLOTHES

WHAT DO THEY DO WITH THE OLD CLOTHES? Burn them

A)Finality to it - never going back

B)Most people don’t save – Big clothes – Don’t want to go back –

1)I have some stuff in my closet – from when I was skinnier – always hope

C)Nothing from when I was bigger

And When that type of radical transformation occurs – Here is what you don’t see

A)Never seen the guy or gal wear those big pants – synched at the waists

B)Or huge shirts – tied to the side – doesn’t fit

C)NO THEY GET NEW CLOTHES – matches the transformation

1)Extreme change -

D)YOU and I have undergone an extreme change – extreme makeover on the inside –

1)God’s Cleansing – sin gone – God’s spirit – God’s heart –

E)The outside needs to start looking like the inside!

Paul shows us what that looks like

V25 Putting away lying – let each one speak the truth with his neighbor – why? We are members of one another – connected – we are family

A)So put away lying – put on truth –

B)Often times lying stems from this desire of wanting people to think better about us

1)We want to cover up our flaws – sins

C)We are family – Be truthful – all broken – process of transformation -

V.26 Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,²⁷ nor give place to the devil. Don’t give the Devil a foothold

A)You have Jesus in your heart – don’t let the devil get his foot in the door

B)Sun go down – marriage – agree to talk

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

A)Put away taking – and put on giving – generosity

B)Carnal mindset – is take – get all you can –

1)Spiritual mindset is give – You have been blessed to be a blessing

C)You are a steward of what God has given you – use it work with your hands = use your gifts

1)So that you can bless others

²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

A)Corrupt = Putrid { Rotten eggs / spoiled fish / UGLY

B)Talk that is cutting / divisive / unusable and unfit { Put that away

C)Speak words that are necessary for edification = Words that build up others

D)Phillips translates *words that are suitable for the occasion*

Col 4:6 *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt,*

1) Salt – Healing – Medicinal / flavor enhancing gives life to a conversation / preserving

Paul sums it up this way:

.³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Analogy: Sometimes on those Home improvement shows – the people are buying a two story house –

A) all they talk about is doing the downstairs – Kitchen – the living room – entry – total transformation –

B) But the upstairs bedrooms go virtually untouched

1) because the people don't have enough cash to do the whole house

C) So the transformation is incomplete – it is only the part that people see – outward

D) Sometimes that is what we do – we think – transformation is complete – Not living like I used

1) Not caught up in that blatant

God is committed to that work of total transformation

And your heavenly father is not cash strapped – He is looking for totally transformation

A) Life long process – sanctification

B) He is going to complete the work – process

C) But you and I need to be willing participants

Again let me use the analogy of the Home improvement show –

A) Renovation – The expert says – ok this is what I am thinking – I am going to take away this room

B) You are going to lose this – but bigger dining room

C) Or a bigger Kitchen – open concept

1) Or a beautiful big master bath

Yes you are going to have to give up this closet or this junk room – but what you are getting is so much better

A) Now as they are describing it – you might not be able to see what the expert is seeing

B) But you just have to trust them – that they have the skill and the resources to pull it off –

1) **Willing participant – in the tear down – love that**

C) Similar way Your heavenly father – wants you to trust him – He knows what He is doing

1) His plan for you is better than yours

D) He has the talent and resources to do the Job

1) He is going to ask you to be a willing participant

E) Put away the old – walk towards the new -

Here is the Key: God commandments are God's enablements

A) In other words – when you move in the direction of what God is calling you to do – He supplies the power

Holy Spirit convicts us – that attitude needs to go

A) We have to put it away – put away bitterness and put on forgiveness – why ?

B) Because you have been forgiven so much

C) Put away Anger and put on kindness – why?

1) Because he has been so kind to you

D) Can you say today – God I want total transformation?

Whole house – seen and the unseen parts?

He is faithful and loving – Amen