

Ephesians 4:17–25 **"Life from Christ via Theology"**

Those who are still in Adam are spiritually brain-dead and alienated from the life of God. If our life-walk is to be a putting off the old man and putting on of the new man, we need that life of God that Christ gives to us, as One Whom we learn and hear, and by Whom we are taught. Theological instruction is central to the mission of the church, because the church is Christ's mission, and this is Christ's method.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Ephesians chapter 4. We come this week to verses 17 through 25. These are God's words. This 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 having 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. Who being passed feeling have given themselves over to luteness to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ. If indeed you have heard him. And have been taught. By him as the truth is in Jesus. That you put off concerning your former conduct the old man.

Which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. And be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And that you put on the new man. Which was created according to God. In true righteousness. And holiness. Therefore putting away lying. Let each one of you speak truth. With his neighbor. For we are members.

Of one another. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

Sometimes those who are either new to the church or other otherwise in other cases sometimes that is who have been their families have been in the church for many generations. They come to focus almost exclusively upon behavior. These are the things we do those are the things they do.

Now, the apostle Paul is making that contrast here. They're ought to be a real difference. Between what those in the church do and what those from the nations what he calls here the gentiles do. But the apostle is telling us about this. Not just focusing on the behavior, but on.

Where the behavior comes from. And how the new behavior. Comes. So the big problem for the Gentiles that led to there being past feeling and giving themselves over to ludeness to work all and cleanness with readiness lewdness and uncleanness and readiness filthiness immoral living covetous heart not being

content with what God has given living for yourself and pleasure and entertainment and stuff.

The reason they were doing all that the ultimate problem for them is that they did not have any life in them. As verse 18 says they were alienated from the life of God. It says since all they had was the death of Adam. Every one of us is from Adam.

And what we have from Adam is death and death is opposed to God. And when we have death in us, it results in wrong living and it's especially corrupted our minds that they didn't have the life of God and so their minds are corrupted and it produces behavior. Well, how can we who are children of the first Adam?

Get the life of God in us. Now the kids are very good at answering questions and they can hear the way the question is phrased and even the way you say who are the children of the first Adam. And you hear a ha. There's another man, there's a new humanity that has life in it and even the life of God Himself.

The word became flesh and dwelt among us. He became the last Adam as the scriptures described our Lord Jesus Christ in him is life and that life is the light of men. And so as you and I want to change our behavior. We don't want to walk in filthiness and then clean this and and greeting.

We want to put on the new man the new Adam. We want and what we need for that is to have the life of Jesus in us. Well, how do you get the life of Jesus in you? Jesus says here by His Spirit through the Apostle Paul through your mind.

The Gentiles walking was in the futility of their mind. Their understanding was darkened. They were alienated from the light of God because of the ignorance that is in them. Because of the blindness of their heart. So we need our minds to be changed by Jesus and this is how Jesus gives himself to us look at verse 20 if you have a copy of the word of God open says but you have not so learned Christ other Bible talks about different ways of our being joined to Jesus usually our believing into him or trusting in him.

But here it talks about learning Him the effect that Jesus has on us in the way we think when we trust in Him. And here's wonderful reminder of what we have often referred back to Hebrews 3 and 4 Hebrews chapter 12 or Romans 10 and our need not just to hear men speaking.

Bible things. But Jesus speaking from heaven this in verse 20 again, but you have not so learned Christ if indeed you have heard him. And been taught by him. So the Lord Jesus gives his life a life of God to be in us through teaching and learning and hearing by which he changes our thinking.

And so when he says gets to the putting law and the putting on and the two go together and we'll pick up verse 25 again next week and look at some putting off and putting on pairs together. Lord willing next doors day afternoon. He says that

you put off concerning your former conduct the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

The Christian life, which is the life of God by Jesus in us is a theological life. He changes how we think and as He gives us to think more and more like He does. And you can see that couldn't you when Satan was tempting him and Satan would try and talk him into one way of thinking and Jesus as I know.

I think according to the Bible. That as he makes us to be like himself and he gives us his life to be in us the primary way he changes our behavior is by changing our thinking to be like his thinking. That's why it's so important for our family worship to be theological.

Oh Dad asks me questions about what the passage says or he explains the theology of the passage. Well, hopefully you don't have that attitude towards it our flesh sometimes from the old man that we're putting off will respond that way and that's why classes at church sermons and even songs that God has written for us and prayers that we pray according to his word end up being theological.

Because Jesus gives his life to us by changing our minds to think like his by the use of his word. And suddenly theological doesn't become theological you realize that theology is a way of your redeemer working out his life in you and something you get hungry to know and see what Bible passages mean and how one passage helps you understand the other and what it is that Jesus is thinking as the perfect last man.

And what it is that he wants us to grow in thinking. As those who get our life from him instead of death from the first Adam and then it will be in true righteousness and holiness and of course the reason we included verse 25 as we've been hearing for several weeks haven't we about one of the things that Jesus uses to tell us and get us thinking about his word so that our minds will be changed and will have his life in us.

And that thing that he uses is one another. Every joint supplies something that remember does its share the reason we have the shepherding teaching theology ministry and the church is to equip the saints for the work of ministry. And yes we are to truth one another as we heard earlier in the chapter but year he does use the specific verb for speaking that we are everyone to speak truth with his neighbor, why for we are members of one another.

You think about your body when the way the nerves communicate the attitude and intentions and actions of the mind and the head the Lord Jesus he passes his truth doesn't he through the whole body from one part to the other parts and all of the parts belong to one another?

So it's important for you to be learning what this passage says and what that passage means now these things fit together so that you can be speaking it with

your brothers and sisters at home and your brothers and sisters in the church family and other brothers and sisters in Christ.

That we would speak the truth when another for your members of one another. And what do we want for our brothers and sisters more than we want the life of God in Jesus Christ to be in them, that's what loved ones that's what the love of Christ the love of God in Christ has wanted for you from before the world began.

Let's pray.

Lord we thank you for the way that you have designed us. And our lives our walking our conduct to be controlled and directed by our minds and we thank you that when you gave us your life in your son our Lord Jesus to be the last Adam for us so that we might have life for him that overcomes and cancels out the death that we had in the first.

That you have granted to us to hear him and be taught by him even to know that all the truth is in him. And so we pray for the hope of your Holy Spirit that he would bless to us the small portion of your word that we have just heard of and that he would always be attending us by his power in his love to give us the mind of Christ from his word.

We ask it in Jesus name. In the members of your body in this place say. Amen.