

BECOMING A BILLBOARD FOR CHRIST

Introduction – The Christian message is communicated through our individual lifestyle and our congregational life. We are either a positive advertisement for Jesus or a contradictory message.

A. The Christless Culture

Ephesians 4:17-19

1. Three distinct Greek words describe the nature of all godless societies over the centuries.
 - a. *Porosis* – Someone that has become so hardened that they are petrified and have lost all feeling.
 - b. *Aselgeia* – Shameless behavior devoted to the insatiable lust of one's devious desires.
 - c. *Pleonexia* - It is the irresistible desire to possess someone or something without regard of the negative consequences.
2. Futile thinking darkens and hardens our hearts so that we lose all sensitivity to others.
3. Embracing godless ignorance results in a self-indulgent life where we are left with a continual lust for more.

B. Christ-centered Change

Ephesians 4:20-24

1. Following Jesus requires us to adopt a new way of life rather than settling for being religious.
2. We were taught to discard our old self which is being corrupted by deceitful desires.
3. We are under constant construction as God creates in us a new attitude resulting in a new self.

C. A Christ-like Attitude in Action

Ephesians 4:25-28

1. Quit lying and speak truthfully to everyone.

2. If we tell ourselves lies in our heart we are going to be easily angered with others.
3. The word translated “devil” means “slanderer.”
4. Quit being a taker and work hard so that you can help those in real need.

D. Christ-like Communication

Ephesians 4:29-32

1. Do not talk out of bitterness or a settled condition of anger.
2. Speak out of compassion, kindness, and a forgiving heart.
3. Wholesome communication must be helpful in building others up according to their needs, so it will benefit those who are listening.
4. Remember how much God forgave you because of Christ and do not grieve the Holy Spirit with your attitude and talk.

Conclusion – Your life is the means that God has chosen to rescue repentant rebels. Our life together as a congregation must communicate that new creation is possible in Christ.