

BE-COMERS IN CHRIST EPHESIANS – PART 8

Introduction – God’s eternal purpose was to create a community of fully alive human beings like Jesus. Previously we were products of our family of origin and societal agendas. Now we are in the process of transformation into God’s new humanity.

A. There Are Consequences for Conformity to Worldly Values

Ephesians 4:17-19

1. Rebellion and resistance to God’s will produces hard hearts in us.
2. Futility in thinking darkens our understanding. This willful ignorance separates us from the life of God.
3. Loss of moral sensitivity leads us to indulge in every kind of impurity.
4. This sinful lifestyle causes us to never be contented or satisfied. Instead we are driven by a continual lust for more.

B. The Truth Is in Jesus

Ephesians 4:20-24

1. Jesus calls us to a distinct way of life, not mere religious ritual.
2. We must take off our former self like a dirty garment and discard it.
3. Our former way of life was characterized by deceitful desires that corrupted our souls.
4. The transformation is not complete until we put on our new self by being made new in the attitude of our minds.

C. Examples of Christ-Like Change

Ephesians 4:25-28

1. Quit lying and tell the truth to one another.
2. Do not let your feelings of anger become a settled condition of your heart.
3. Practice a strong work ethic and reject stealing in any form, so that you can share with those in real need.

D. Follow God's Example of Love

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

1. Wholesome talk is intended to build others up and benefit those who hear it.
2. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit with attitudes of bitterness and rage or behaviors of brawling and slander.
3. We are dearly loved children of God. We must choose to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving of each other in the imitation of our Father God.

Conclusion – Do not let life shape you into a bitter, hard-hearted person who is constantly dissatisfied. Let the Spirit of God transform you by the presence of Christ into a brand new person. This real change is from the inside out.