



Lesson 9: You're Not Who You Used to Be – Walk Different

Ephesians 4:17-32

What do horses mooing, ducks barking, and Christians sinning all have in common? All three are living inconsistently with their nature. We have been emphasizing the group aspect of God's plan. God is bringing himself glory, not just through the individual lives of believers, but through what he is doing in the church – his believers gathered together. But this emphasis doesn't mean individual believers don't matter, it actually highlights the need of each believer to grow even more! The church only grows as the individual members grow! So if our individual growth is crucial to the success of the church, how do we grow individually?

WHAT WE LOOKED LIKE BEFORE SALVATION (vv 17-19)

- **Our minds were** _____. Once again, Paul heaps up synonyms to make his point: before Christ we had a major thinking problem:
 - "Futility (vanity) of their minds"
 - "Darkened in their understanding"
 - "Ignorance that is in them"



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- **Our hearts were _____.** Ultimately, the intellectual problem had a deeper problem – our wills resisted God. We couldn't see because we wouldn't see.
- **Our desires were _____.** Twisted hearts and twisted minds will inevitably lead to twisted desires.

WHAT SALVATION DID FOR US (vv 20-24)

- **Salvation _____ us Christ.** The way Paul says this is very interesting. He doesn't say that we have learned "about Christ" or even "from Christ." He states that we have learned Christ. The point seems to be that we grow as we grow in our relationship with Christ.
- **Salvation _____ us a new _____.** Some debate whether we have been put off and put on, or whether Paul is telling us to put off and put on. Most likely he is saying this is something that has happened. In contrast to this is the process of renewal, which should be a continual, ongoing activity.

WHAT WE SHOULD LOOK LIKE AFTER SALVATION (vv 25-32)

Paul then goes on to show how since we have been saved, that should be seen in the way we live (particularly in our relationships with others). Paul addresses the concept of putting off/putting on, and being renewed to specific areas of life where a believer's new status should be seen.

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