

ROOTED IN _____

STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
010: ROOTED IN GOD'S LIKENESS
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PRIMARY TEXT:

EPHESIANS 4:17-24; ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. **18** They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19** They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **20** But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **21** assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22** to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to put on the new self, **created** after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

OUR FOOTING IN THE TEXT

If you recall chapter 4 starts with the idea that we walk worthy of the grace and calling we have received. Paul is continuing to expound on this idea. In the past weeks we've learned what this looks like as a faith community that is unified in purpose and yet diverse in so many ways. Now today, Paul is going to expand on this idea of walking worthy by taking it from a corporate understanding to an individual. In the coming weeks as we make our way through the remainder of the book this is where Paul will stay, addressing the individual.

Let me press pause just for a second and remind you of what Pastor Amy shared a few weeks ago regarding heaven solutions for earthly problems.

An objection could quickly be brought that the Scriptures should be more instructive and explicit on how to deal with large scale problems by addressing the crowds instead of the individual. OK, so we know that the Bible condemns genocide, so why doesn't the Bible give instruction on how to effectively end genocide?

"If you want to change the world, start at home." - Mother Teresa

CLOTHES MAKE A MAN

There is an old expression that says that clothes make a man. The idea is that we all judge ourselves and others by their outward appearance. Its built on the concept that a person's self-worth and understanding of their identity can be known by the way that a person dresses and presents themselves. I think that we all felt this most in our teenage years. Remember that? We often tell our children that they should take pride in the way that they appear, take responsibility for personal hygiene, and remember that you represent Jesus and our family. Not that long ago my son confided in us that one of his friends was making fun him because he always wears Target brand clothing. Owen was crushed. He felt like he didn't measure up or wasn't good enough. Not because of his character, not because of the way he treated people, but because the brand on his clothing was from Target. His own friend group, his buddies, the kid that sleeps over at our house, communicated that value of a person is dictated by the name on a shirt.

This is clearly disappointing and wrong. We have all experienced this or have witnessed it. The connection between identity and value by appearance is a human problem that we all have felt in different ways. Paul in this text is tapping into this feeling. Now, that doesn't mean that he is affirming the position.

This spirit of Paul's point is this, it started at the beginning of chapter four. We must walk worthy of the grace that has been given to us. Now in this text he is using clothing as an illustration to define the identity and actions of Christians.

THINKING PROBLEM

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the *futility of their minds*.

- Understanding and ignorance vs. 18
- Learning and teaching vs. 20-21
- The mind and truth vs. 23-24

The Christian is to think better so that he may act better.

The Ephesians dilemma

- Atremis
- Sex goddies / back cow wolf combo
- Orgies
- Art collection

- Bank
- Safe zone for criminals

The Criminal Personality

The futility of the mind is, Meaninglessness: Using silly methods to aim at a foolish goal

FUTILITY LEADS TO ALIENATION FROM GOD

¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

People are more educated than ever...

2 Timothy 3:7

⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

“darkened” perfect participle, indicating a continuing condition.

Leroy Auden quote:

CALLOUSNESS LEADS TO ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

¹⁹They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity

(Sarah Hall Video)

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