

## Sermon Discussion – 17 March 2024

Read Ephesians 4:17-24

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

At different points in life, we experience an important event that radically changes something about how we think, behave, or look at things. What is one example of an event that had an impact on everything else in your life?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

Often when people consider the cost of becoming a Christian, their minds regularly go to "what I can't" or "what I shouldn't" do anymore. Yet, when one becomes a new creation in Christ, it's not simply stopping living in a particular way, but beginning to live in a completely new way.

Paul begins to tease out the areas in our lives that should see renewal and transformation as we have been adopted into God's family and begin to live in the new community He has set apart for Himself.

- Consider this statement: *When you know who you are, then you know what to do.* Would you agree with this sentence? Why or why not?
- Paul emphasises the importance of putting off the old self and putting on the new self in Christ...similar to the analogy of changing clothes. How does this imagery resonate with you in your spiritual journey?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Paul does not paint a pretty picture for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus. In verses 17-19, what are some of the descriptions Paul gives? Can you give some examples of what this may look like in your life?
2. In v. 19, we see the concept of a calloused heart. Have you ever experienced a time when you felt spiritually calloused? How did you overcome it?
3. Ephesians 4:20 says they had "learned Christ." Normally we learn details, facts, or behaviours, but not a person. Do you think this phrasing from Paul was intentional? What is he trying to communicate here?
4. Paul begins to draw a distinction between the "old self" and the "new self" in v. 22-24. What are some of the contrasts that Paul makes?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- We see an emphasis on the importance of renewing our minds and surrendering them to God in v. 23-24. How do you actively renew your mind in your daily life?
- Reflect on a time when you realised the difference between religious behaviour and a genuine relationship with Jesus. How did this realisation impact your spiritual journey?
- What steps can we take to respond to God's work in our lives more effectively?