

# We Are Not Who We Were

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October 29, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

**We are not who we were** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Put off the old self)** vs 20-21

**Who we were (are)** \_\_\_\_\_ **from** \_\_\_\_\_. vs 17-19

**The Gospel changes our** \_\_\_\_\_. vs 20-21

\_\_\_\_\_ **who the Gospel** \_\_\_\_\_ **you to be. (Put on the new self)** vs 20-21

Put off:

Put On:

Reason:

## **Ephesians 4:17-32** (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ!- <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with

his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

**Open:** What significant events/commitments in your life have caused lifelong change?

**Read and Discuss:** Ephesians 4:17-32

1. From the characteristics of unbelievers (Gentiles) listed in vv. 17-19, what aspects of your own life, before trusting in Christ, are you reminded of and thankful to be delivered from?
2. As you reflect on the condition of unbelievers noted in vv. 17-19, how do these truths help shape your attitude toward unbelievers you know? In what ways have you had wrong attitudes toward those outside of Christ?
3. Paul uses the phrase "the way you learned Christ" to refer to the conversion of these Ephesian believers (v. 20). When you "learned Christ," what was your understanding of how God intended the Gospel to change your lifestyle? Describe how you've grown in the knowledge of Christ's work in you and His expectations for you.
4. Between putting off our "old self" (v. 22) and putting on our "new self" (v. 24), Paul tells us "to be renewed in the spirit of your minds" (v. 23). What is involved in this process, and how much of that process involves our responsibility?
5. According to v. 24, your new self is "created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." What are practical implications of that truth for us as believers? How could knowing this help you overcome temptation?
6. In verses 25-32 what things does Paul tell us to stop doing? What things does he tell us to do? What reason, if any, does he give for why we should or shouldn't do each of these things? (*Do not rush through this question. Take some time as you make these observations.*)
7. Which of the commands in verses 25-32 do you have difficulty following? Which of these commands in verses 25-32 have you seen God strengthen you to obey?
8. How do all of Paul's commands in verses 25-32 relate to what he said back in verses 17-24? What do you think Paul would advise for continued growth in applications like these?

**Pray:** Ask God to help us walk appropriately in our new self, "created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."