

Discipled in Christ: Be the New You Ephesians 4:20-24

Introduction

NJFK—Painting aprons—protect your clothes so you don't have to throw them away; we get rid of clothes stained so bad you can't get them clean and replace them with new clothes

Ephesians 4:20-24

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.

1. Learn Jesus Christ (20-21).
2. Put off the old you (22).
3. Put on the new you (23-24).

1. Learn Jesus Christ (20-21).

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,

Learned Christ—verb form of disciple; learn so that you can teach others, observe so that you can imitate his way of life

Christ—the Messiah; the Anointed One—promised Savior-King

But you did not so learned Christ—so as to walk as the Gentiles (nations/ethnicities who don't know God) do.

Heard about Him—gospel history testified to by eyewitnesses

Taught in Him—instruction in Him; connection to Jesus is everything.

As (just as) the truth is in Jesus—His given name; call His name “Yahweh saves,” for He will save His people from their sins.

John 8:31-32

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Application

The new you with your new mindset and lifestyle is impossible apart from Jesus. You need a Savior who can bring a rotting corpse back to life and make it healthy again.

2. Put off the old you (22).

²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

Put off—like stripping off ruined clothes and throwing them away; once and for all

Former manner of life—former conduct

Corrupt—something rotten that keeps getting worse and worse

Through deceitful desires—desire for pleasures that are an illusion, always promising what they can't deliver (like bait or a lure for a fish). Tempted to sin with the lie that somehow you'll be happier if you give in to what is wrong.

Application

Stop clinging to anything corrupt. Strip it off and throw it away. If you think it will make you happy, you're playing the fool and believing a lie.

3. Put on the new you (23-24).

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.

Be renewed—constant renewal process

In the spirit of your minds—contrast to walking in the futility of their minds (17); a transformation from the inside out, in the very way you think and perceive and reason

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Put on the new self—like putting on a fresh, clean set of clothes; not outward hypocrisy (renewed in the spirit of your mind), but your outward visible, practical lifestyle that flows from your renewed mindset

Created after the likeness of God—according to or corresponding to God

Created—the new creation

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Righteousness—conformity to God's perfect standards of right and wrong

Holiness—attitude of reverence committed to fulfilling God’s demands (used in secular Greek of reverence also for one’s parents)

Of truth—reality versus what is false

This new lifestyle is rooted in truth, in contrast to the old lifestyle that was rooted in falsehood—“deceitful desires” (22)

John 18:37-38a

³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

Application

God has created this life in you, but you must cultivate it through renewing the spirit of your mind to live out righteousness and holiness (reverence) rooted in truth.

Conclusion

1. Learn Jesus Christ (20-21).
2. Put off the old you (22).
3. Put on the new you (23-24).