

Ephesians 4:20-5:4 - Part 1

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 9-16-15

Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. **New Standards - unity and purity** (4:1-5:21)
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

The Christian Life

"you did not learn Christ in this way" (v. 20)

- Sharpness in contrast
- 3 parallel expressions - Christian moral education:
 - You "learned" Christ (v. 20)
 - Paul has "preached Christ" (II Cor. 4:5) they have "learned" (v. 20) or "received" Christ (Col. 2:6)
 - Christ is the _____ of the teaching - apostolic tradition (cf. I John 1:1, 3)
 - You "heard" him (v. 21a)
 - Not "about" him - no preposition
 - Christ is also the _____
 - His hands, feet, and _____
 - You were taught "in" him (v. 21b)
 - Christ is the atmosphere in which they have been taught ("in him" - v. 21b)
 - He is the _____ for "futility of mind"

What specifically had they *already* been taught about, by, and in Jesus?

- V. 22-24 - Becoming a Christian involves a radical _____
 - conversion (from human side) and re-creation (from divine side)
 - Repudiation of old "self" (fallen humanity) and assumption of new self (re-created humanity)

Old self/man

corrupt, degenerating, headed toward ruin/destruction

Passions

Lusts were "deceitful"

New self/man

Freshly created after the moral likeness of God

Holiness

Righteousness is "true"

- In addition must come a continuous inward renewal of our outlook - "be renewed (present infinitive vs. aorist) in the spirit of your minds"
 - Heathen depravity is due to "futility of mind". Ongoing Christian holiness depends on "renewing" of our minds
 - Cf. Rom. 12:1-2; 1:28-31
- Clothing metaphor: We _____ to fit the _____
 - Children of God "wear" the new clothing of a holy, ethical lifestyle

"Therefore" (v. 25) - implications! This is what your new clothes look like.