

Session



Personal Study Guide

The Image of Righteousness

July 26, 2020

Introduction

- ? What roles do you find identity in (i.e., spouse, mother, father, friend, volunteer, employee)? Which roles are you the most proud of? Which ones would you like to change?

- ? What do you think it means for a Christian to know his or her identity in Christ? What passages might be used to help explain that to another person?


1. Farewell to the Old Life (Ephesians 4:17-18)

- ? Why did Paul choose to use “darkened in their understanding” as a way of referring to the Gentiles who did not know Christ? What does the term “ignorance” tell you about life without Christ? Do you think Paul was being insulting here?


- ? Application: How would you describe what it means to live in “futility of thought”? What are some temptations that might lure a Christian into such patterns?


2. Contrasting the Old Life and the New Life (Ephesians 4:19-21)

- ? If you are a Christian, what changes have you seen in your own life with regard to blindness to sin after coming to know Christ? Why is it important for Christians to remember who they were before Christ so that they might appreciate anew who He has made them to be?


 Application: How do you respond when you are confronted by the moral erosion in our community? How does the realization of the depth of immorality in Ephesus impact your view of the church's opportunity today?


3. Living the New Life (Ephesians 4:22-24)


 What patterns of behavior can you think of that might falsely promise fulfillment? What does life look like for a person who continues to chase fulfillment down that road?

 Application: What media outlets and information avenues contribute most significantly to what your mind thinks about? What differences do you notice when those habits change—for the good or the bad? What influence have you learned certain environments have on you?

Conclusion

 Have you experienced new life in Christ? If so, what would you say is your greatest area of struggle in living the new life? What strategies do you have in place to counteract that? Who helps you and prays for you in this regard? If not, how is God calling you to respond today?

 When you think about your mind being renewed, what are the first thoughts that jump into your mind about what you listen to, look at, read, talk about, and so on? Are those things beneficial or harmful to your mind's renewal? How should you act accordingly?

 Who do you know who is making choices with darkened judgment or futile thoughts? How might you seek to have a gospel conversation with this person?

Daily Readings

- Monday - Ephesians 4:17-24
- Tuesday - 1 Peter 1:14-16
- Wednesday - 1 John 3:6-10

- Thursday - 2 Corinthians 7:1
- Friday - 1 Thessalonians 5:13
- Saturday - 1 Peter 2:24