



Being Men of God in a Dark World
High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Ephesians 4: Part 2 – Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Most of us would have to admit we're living in dark times. What used to be right is often considered wrong, and standing for the right things can often result in criticism and even public backlash. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a book for a "time such as this." The early church in the ancient city of Ephesus faced similar challenges as we do today in being disciples of Jesus. The pagan culture did not recognize God and certainly did not see Jesus as God's Son. In his letter, Paul addresses some of the most important Christian concepts contained in the Bible including the Holy Spirit, salvation, spiritual warfare, marriage, and even parenting. May the Lord use this book of the Bible to impact us all to be more like Jesus!

Overview of Chapter 4: Part 2

Verses 17-24 Instructions for Christian Living: Introspection

Verses 25-32 Instructions for Christian Living: Relationships with Others

Verses 17 through 24

1. When Paul and the other New Testament writers describe non-Believers and pagans, they often used the word "Gentile." In our context we should consider the class of people described as Gentiles as those who do not follow Jesus and could not be classified as a Believer (i.e., most people who live in the world around us). Read verses 17 through 24 and answer the following questions.
 - a. As you look around the world today, what characteristics and attributes would you use to describe a non-believing world? *Examples include disrespect of authority and no knowledge of the Bible.*
 - b. As you have matured in the Lord over the past several years, how has your mindset changed in terms of how you "see the world" and how you might act differently today than in the past?
 - c. If you were to counsel a young man who had recently become a follower of Jesus, what advice would you give him in terms of living a changed life?
2. Read verses 20 and 21 (copied below). If you were to prepare a list of what you've learned about Jesus, what would be on that list? Think not only about facts, but your relationship with Him.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.



Verses 25 through 32

Verses 25 through 32 have some very practical guidance for holy living, especially in terms of how we communicate, treat others, being honest and venerable, and being people of integrity. Read these verses and answer the following questions.

3. Verse 25 speaks of being honest with each other. Why is being honest with each other, especially Believers and those closest to us, difficult?

4. Verses 26-25 are extremely important verses for several reasons. First, they state that in our anger we are not to sin. **It does not say anger is a sin.** There are some things they should make us mad, sin being one of them! Secondly, Paul speaks of having anger with one another. Lastly, the text speaks of not giving Satan a foothold. Consider these points in answering the following questions.
 - a. What things anger you? There are certain things that trigger all of us.

 - b. When you become angry, what is your typical response? Did your upbringing influence how you react?

 - c. How can “unaddressed anger” give Satan a foothold in our lives?

5. Verses 29 through 32 speak of how we communicate and treat others. I remember memorizing Ephesians 4:32 as a little boy. Throughout my life my mother reminded me of it often, especially my high school years when I could have “a bit” of an attitude!
 - a. How does being around others who are encouraging with speech and action make you feel?

 - b. How important is it for us as Christians to encourage others? Would you say it is something that should define us as Christians?

Next week's study

Read Ephesians Chapter 5, verses 1 through 21. Think about making good choices and living a life that honors God through what Jesus did for us.