



## STUDY 6

### EPHESIANS 4:17-32

# CHRIST CENTRED WARDROBE CHANGE

**1.** What is a new 'lifehack', skill or hobby you've learnt recently? (Could be a random fact or new business practice or way to get a stain out of clothing) How did it change your life?

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Read Ephesians 2:1-10

**2.** Paul opens this section by telling the Ephesian Christians not to live as the Gentiles do. What does living "as the Gentiles do" look like in terms of our

minds .....

souls .....

hearts .....

moral code .....

sense of satisfaction .....

**3.** Where do you see this way of living, ('as the gentiles do') in non Christians around you?

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**4.** Where do you see this way of living play out in your own life?

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**5.** Why is it easier not to view 'non-believers' in the same way that Paul views "the Gentiles" in verses 18-19?

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**6.** How does having a different view to Paul's affect our pursuit of holiness and our desire to evangelise?

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Verse 21 tells us that we are taught a new way of life in Christ because the truth is found in Jesus. In Jesus we see both a righteous Christian life lived for us and a demonstration of what it means to live a new life.

We see the holiness of God revealed to us in the person of Jesus. Truth and salvation are found in Jesus. We read the Bible in order to "learn" Jesus and to have our minds renewed by the spirit (v23) so that we can live the new life in Christ. Being a Christian isn't about trusting a set of practices it's all about trusting and looking to Jesus.

7. How might this excite and motivate you about reading the scriptures?

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Learning holiness from Jesus is like changing clothes. We need to learn to undress in order to prepare ourselves for being redressed. Our attitudes and desires can't just be got rid off - they need to be replaced.

## CHRIST CENTRED TRANSFORMATION

As Christians when we first trust in Christ, God clothes us with his righteousness - his perfection. We are saved completely by Christ's holiness but we are saved for a new life of learning holiness.

We want to grow together in living out our "new self," putting aside sin and experiencing the transformation that God's Spirit brings as he renews our minds. As God's church we are called to be committed to helping each other grow in holiness, and our holiness is seen in how we relate to each other. This is expressed well in our DNA statement:

### **We're a church where we want the best for each other.**

We value community but not for the sake of it. As we come together, all with different backgrounds, many with a Christian faith and some who are taking their first steps, we want everyone to be growing as followers of Jesus. This requires honesty and humility. Because Christians are forgiven sinners, we have no place for self-righteousness and at the same time we want people to experience inner transformation that only Jesus can give.



# Read Ephesians 4:25-32

**8.** Working through Paul's list in verses 25-32 what are we being told to "take off" and/or "put on"

TAKE OFF	PUT ON

**9.** How will our behaviour in these areas either undermine our church's unity and its witness (chapter 3:10), or strengthen them?

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**10.** As you look at these "old self" v "new self" differences, which ones encourage you as you think about your own life? Which challenge you?

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**11.** Where might you need to put off/put on new attitudes or behaviours in terms of the relationships that exist here at Christ Central?

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# Prayer

Spend some time thanking God for showing you in Jesus what a godly life looks like. Ask God to show you where you need to "take off" aspects of your behaviour or character and ask him to work, by his Spirit to renew your mind - your attitudes and affections.

Here's a reminder of the 'ACTS' approach to prayer. It stands for:



## adoration

We bring our praise to God for who He is and what He's graciously done for us.



## confession

We don't confess sin as if it's our ritual towards absolution, but in the light of the cross where God's judgement and mercy meet, it's right to acknowledge our on-going sin that is graciously dealt with by Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.



## thanksgiving

We offer thanks for what God's done in our own life and in the lives of others in our church family.



## supplication

This is a fancy word for the prayer of asking for specific things. God is our Father and He wants us to bring our concerns to Him. And as we've seen in Ephesians 1, it's right to ask that our brothers and sisters in Christ would know Him better.

# Upcoming Event

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## Grow Women's Conference

For hundreds of years, God's people had been waiting for this moment. Luke tells us it's here. AT LAST the king arrives. But he's not what people expect. He loves the outcast. He's scathing of religious showmanship. He heals the broken hearted. And some want him dead. This king calls us to follow him. Nothing matters more than our response.

At GROW 2017 you will hear Clare Deeves explain why a weary world can rejoice in Luke's Gospel.

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