

Ephesians 4:21-32

Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Today: October 15, 2023

Today's Order:

Opening: Ephesians 4:21-32
Doxology (Romans 11)
Reading
Speak O Lord

Teaching of the Word:

Entrust - Colossians 3:1-17

Communion

Worship

Collection of Tithes and Offerings
Before the Throne of God Above
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
There is One Gospel
Doxology (Advent #1)

Upcoming Sermon Topics and Events:

Oct 22: Colossians 3:18-25; Kevin Salsbery

Oct 29: Colossians 4; Ian Smith

The Workshop: Men's Bible and Character Study. This is an ongoing study that meets the first Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 a.m. Meeting location is at Robb Besosa's woodshop: 460 Salt Creek Road. Next Meeting: November 5th at 7:30am. See Kevin Salsbery for assignments and materials.

Live Streaming: If you cannot attend in person, you can join us by clicking the button on our home page at vineandbranch.family

Email list: If you attend regularly and want to be kept updated on church information and events by being included on the email list, provide your email to Ian Smith; iansmith@ianlabs.com. These are sent out 2-3 times a month and include prayer requests and announcements.

Serving: Do you want to serve at church in a practical way? We are in need of adding some families or individuals (4-6 people) willing to help with set up or tear down of the church. If you are interested in helping please contact Eric & Amy Hart. Text 812.764.6441

Please check out www.vineandbranch.family for a more detailed calendar of events and to access previous sermons.

Colossians 3:1-17

Paul issues these two commands:

1. "Seek the things that are above, where Christ is"
2. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

This is the new glorious reality for believers in Christ:

"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (v3-4)

Given that we have died with Christ and are now raised to life in Him, we must make an effort to set our minds on this new reality. We must work towards having the "Body of Christ mindset."

We need to set out minds on this higher reality Paul says "Set your minds"

What is a mindset? To "set your mind on something" is to focus your thoughts, intentions, and efforts on a specific objective. It involves conscious decisions to prioritize or work towards something with determination and commitment. **A mindset will always show itself in word and action. It will be evident to others**

We can extrapolate a few key things from today's passage:

1. We **need to be reminded** to embrace Christ's higher reality
2. Our **tendency is to not embrace** this new reality
3. It takes **intention** to do this – it doesn't happen accidentally

How do we adopt this mindset:

1. **PUT OFF the old self.** Put to death that which is worldly. This is a command to forget, disregard, let go, and stop acting out the old, earthly, lesser reality that we were rescued from.
2. **PUT ON the new self.** Put on what is of Christ. This is a command to think about, ponder, embrace, dwell on, get our heads around, believe, and obey Christ's greater, better, and higher reality.

For believers, the old self has died with Christ and is no longer the dominant reality.

Sanctification: sinning less and less over time by the power of the Holy Spirit

PUT OFF

(Put to death) the old self: Sexual immorality, Impurity, Lust, Evil desires, Greed/idolatry

Sins of the lower, earthly reality that harm unity: Anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language, lying

PUT ON

The attributes of Christ that lead to unity:

Compassionate hearts, Kindness, Humility, Meekness, Patience, Forbearance, Forgiveness, Love (Above all), Peace of Christ, Thankfulness

This is much bigger than "let's all get along." This is a Body of Christ reality, and we need the Body of Christ mindset.

7 ways to set your mind on things above - getting the higher mindset:

1. The new self is renewed *in knowledge* – Read the Word.
2. Put off which is worldly (confess and repent of sins)
3. Put off worthless speech
4. Turn off the news, turn off social media
5. Imitate Christ's attributes
6. Embrace the Body of Christ (the church). It's much more than a weekly event. Love and serve each other
7. Always remember the new reality: your life is hidden with Christ in God, and will someday appear with Christ in glory