July 20, 2025 South Sub Church **“Our Walk in Purity”**

Ephesians-Our Walk with Christ

Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV)
So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Sermon Summary:
Everyone desires to live a life of meaning. And there is no greater way to live with true purpose than through a deep, abiding relationship with Jesus. The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reveals the key to experiencing this kind of life. In **Part I** of this series, we’ll explore the spiritual wealth we have as followers of Jesus—including the abundant blessings and divine wisdom available to us. In **Part II**, we’ll deepen our understanding of our spiritual position as believers and the responsibilities that come with it—how we are called to live out our faith in light of what Christ has done.

Ice Breaker Questions:
1. What’s the nicest or most unexpected kind thing someone has done for you recently?
2. What’s something really small that irrationally annoys you?
3. If your mind got a spiritual "software update" overnight, what old thought pattern would you love to see deleted forever?
4. If your "old self" were a piece of clothing, what would it be? (e.g., worn-out hoodie, stained T-shirt, mismatched socks) Why?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. According to verse 17, how does Paul instruct the Ephesians **not** to walk?
2. What is described as being "futile" in verse 17?
3. In verse 18, what are the Gentiles' minds alienated from?
4. What are the two reasons Paul gives for their alienation from the life of God?
5. In verse 19, what are the Gentiles said to have "given themselves up to"?
6. What does Paul instruct believers to “put off” in verse 22?
7. What does Paul say is being “corrupted through deceitful desires”?
8. According to verse 23, where is renewal supposed to happen?
9. In verse 24, what are the three characteristics of the “new self”?
10. According to verse 25, why should we speak truth to our neighbor?
11. What does Paul warn about regarding anger in verse 27?
12. What is the purpose of doing honest work, according to verse 28?
13. List the six behaviors that should be "put away" in verse 31.
14. What three positive traits are commanded in verse 32?
15. What reason is given in verse 32 for forgiving others?

Application Questions:

1. What are some modern ways we see people living in "futility of mind" today?
2. What specific habits or attitudes from your "former way of life" are hardest to let go of?
3. Are there any relationships where you've used "corrupting" or unhelpful speech? What might restoration look like?
4. Do you find it easier to speak truth or to speak with grace—and why?
5. Is there someone in your life you need to forgive—or ask forgiveness from?
6. Which verse in this passage speaks most to your life right now—and why?