

INTO HIS IMAGE – p. 2
“Put Off and Put On”
Ephesians 4:22-24

Three Essential Words

I want to begin this morning by talking about the three words every Christian should know –

- Justification = to be declared righteous by God.
- Sanctification = The process by which God conforms the child of God into the image of Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 6:19 – *“...For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.”*
- Glorification = When the process is completed and the child of God is forever changed into Christ’s likeness –
 - 1 John 3:2 – *“...but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”*

God’s plan is to bring glory to Himself by saving people – And these three words describe and define God’s work in salvation.

In this short series of messages, we are looking at that middle work of salvation –

- Sanctification = changing and growing into the image of Jesus Christ.
- Today we look at the first strategy: Put Off and Put On

Read Ephesians 4:22-24

Pray

A Metaphor

The Apostle Paul is using a metaphor to illustrate this strategy for change –

- The Greek words are more descriptive than the English –
 - To “put off” = To take off clothing; by implication clothing that is dirty, worn out or not fitting.
 - Be “renewed” = To clean up.
 - To “put on” = To be wrapped in a cloak.
- The metaphor is that of changing your clothes – because they are not “fit” or “appropriate.”

Three Parts to this Strategy

Clearly, the metaphor illustrates the spiritual strategy of changing and growing by –

- Putting off the “old self” –
- Renewing the mind is the effect of the gospel; redemption.
- Putting on the new is your new life in Christ – Righteous living that is being conformed to the image of Christ.

1 – Put off the old – v.22

- Three parts to look at –
 - One – It is your old **self** –
 - The old self is so saturated in sin that the only remedy is death by crucifixion!
 - You can’t reform it, educate it, or compromise with it –
 - Gal. 2:20 – *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*
 - Two – The old self “belongs to your former manner of life” –
 - This is how you previously behaved, your way of life –
 - The old self and the old way belong together!

- Three – Your former manner of life was “corrupt through deceitful desires” –
 - So, “desires” points us back to the fundamental problem which is the heart –
 - Our desires are so easily deceived by sin –
 - Eve knew the truth and she knew what the will of the LORD was, but in responding to the serpent’s temptation –
 - Gen. 3:6 – *“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate...”*
 - Temptation never comes with a sign that says, “Do this and die” or “do this and destroy your life” –
 - Temptation fools the desires into thinking “sin is better than God...it is more satisfying, more meaningful, than God’s will.”

-Read Ephesians 4:17-19

2 – Renew your mind – v. 23

- The word renew is in the present tense meaning “an action in process or state of being with no assessment to the action’s completion.”
 - Your mind is continually renewed as you feed on God’s Word –
 - Your mind is continually renewed as you bring God’s Word to bear on any given situation –
 - Your mind is continually renewed as you apply God’s Word to life.

3 – Put on the new – v. 24

- Do not miss the fact that the new self is created – by God!
 - It is not something you make up or that is your own doing.
 - God created man from the dirt and breathed into him the breath of life –
 - In this, God created man to be a soul that inhabits a body.
 - The new self is a creation of God’s righteousness and holiness.
- Ephesians 2:10 – *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

Application

1 – Ask “How do I need to change?”

- Verses 25-32
 - Put off lying – put on honesty
 - Put off brooding – put on communication
 - Put off stealing – put on serving
 - Put off corrupting talk that tears down – put on gracious talk that edifies
 - Put off anger, bitterness, wrath – put on tenderheartedness and forgiveness

2 – Practice the “3 Rs”

3 – Plan to attend One Purpose Weekend