**February 4, 2018 “Put on the New Self” Ephesians 4:23-32**

As I have told you before and as we have studied the Book of Ephesians, we have seen Paul explain through the unction of the Holy Spirit all the things God has bestowed on us as believers. Literally in the first three chapters, we are hearing God say to us, “this is who you are”.

In the next three chapters of this book, Paul now explains or exhorts us to “live like you are in Christ Jesus”. This is not a new concept that Paul is writing about. In Romans and throughout the Pauline epistles we find Paul exhorting the Church again and again to live a live worthy of being called a Christian, **Romans 8:11-13**

What Paul is saying to the Church is this, “If there is no distinction in your life now that Christ has been made known to you, there is a very good possibility that your nature has not changed either”. You see the exhortation Paul is giving to the Church in Ephesus is the same exhortation the Spirit of God is giving to us here in OCC today. That exhortation is this one: if you are a new creature, (Chapter 1-3) you will live like it (Chapter 4-6).

Note here in verses 17-20, Paul is describing the “old self”. Then in verses 23-32, he is telling us to “put on the new self”.

Here is the $100,000 question, “Who lives this Christian life?” Is it you or is it Christ? The answer is that it is Christ in you but if you do not “beat your body to bring it into subjection to His commands and say “yes” to His commands… nothing is going to happen. You see this is what God wills for you, but you and I must respond to that will.

Note this wonderful example Peter gives to us, **II Peter 1:2-11**. Note the word “your” over and over again. Why did Peter write all these things? It is because the Church is supposed to be different than any other entity in the world. Perhaps that is the greatest problem in today’s Church… we don’t want to be different… we want to be loved.

Paul gives us some very practical listings in Ephesians 4 on how we should live our daily lives.

1. Stop lying
   1. Do you realize that our entire world’s system is based on lies?
      1. Media, government, lawyers, doctors, preachers, teachers, bosses, salespeople etc.
      2. Example… salesperson on dishwasher
   2. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44)
      1. He is the god of this world
      2. Worlds’ systems are based on lies
         1. Iran wants nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes
2. Be angry
   1. Three words for anger
      1. Thumos… this is the blowing up type anger
         1. Used to describe the “fury of the wrath of God”
      2. Pair-or-gis-mos… seething fuming resentment
         1. Used when Jesus saw the affects if sin
            1. Cigarettes… dying man
            2. Alcohol… alcoholics
            3. Pornography… 7 months
      3. Or-gee… when something happens against one of your convictions
         1. Someone hurts your child… kind of a natural response
   2. And sin not
      1. Right kind of anger
         1. When God is maligned
         2. When His Word is maligned
      2. Wrong kind
         1. When we get angry because people do things we don’t like
            1. “I don’t deserve to get treated like that”

Why not? Just who do you think you are?

You are a bond slave of Christ

You have no rights

* + 1. Give the devil an opportunity
       1. For what?
          1. Slander

To utter something that may or may not be true… intended to bring defamation to someone

1. He who steals
   1. How do we steal
      1. Non-payment of debt
      2. Cheating on our taxes
      3. Unfair wages
      4. Malachi 3:8-12
         1. That’s Old Testament
            1. So is Genesis 3:16… the promise of the Coming One
            2. Matthew 23:23

How quick are we to point the finger at what we perceive is something wrong in someone’s life… and at the same time justify our lack of giving?

1. Let no unwholesome word
   1. If you can’t say something nice to someone… keep your mouth shut
      1. Psalm 141:3
         1. Husbands… how often do you build up your wife?
2. Two recipes
   1. One for a disastrous Christian life
      1. If I just pray more, study more, memorize more
      2. If I could just understand more about
         1. Justification
         2. Sanctification
         3. Regeneration
         4. Glorification
            1. If I could just
            2. Then I will have a fulfilled Christian life
   2. One for a fulfilled Christian life
      1. Look for God’s grace in the lives of people
      2. The same Grace that saved you will save them
         1. That will empower all of us to love the God who saves