

Study & Discussion Questions

- ❑ Read Ephesians chapter 4:17-32 from the top of your message notes. As you do, take note of what is going right for you and what you may need to rethink. Do you struggle with anger, dishonesty or abusive language? What can you “throw off” and how can you “display a new nature”?
- ❑ While we know in our minds that God is aware of all of our shortcomings (Psalms 139:1), we still tend to pretend they don’t exist. Discuss with others why we have a tendency to try to keep some things hidden in our hearts.
- 🏠 The Bible says who we hang out with matters (Proverbs 13:20) and that good friends are loyal friends (Proverbs 17:17). This week try spending some time with your children or others who are close to you discussing the role that really good friends, the ones we can count on, play in our lives. Share a time in your life when you really needed a friend and who came through for you.
- 🏠 Read Philippians 2:13. Paul says in this verse that God works in us giving us not only the power to change, but the desire to change as well. In what area of your life are you resisting change? Think of a trustworthy person you could ask to pray with you about this. Share your struggle with them and then pray together asking God to give you the courage and desire to make the needed changes.
- 🗣️ There is a non-biblical saying that goes like this: “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”. Discuss how this might pertain to the things a church is able to accomplish when all of its members are focused on the same set of goals.
- 🗣️ Read Ephesians chapter 1 and answer this question: What is Paul praising and what is he praying for and how do you fit into that equation?



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OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

EPHESIANS 4:17-32 (NLT)

*With the Lord's authority let me say this: Live no longer as the ungodly do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed. But that isn't what you were taught when you learned about Christ. Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. **Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.** You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness—righteous, holy, and true. So put away all falsehood and **tell your neighbor the truth** because we belong to each other. And don't sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil. If you are a thief, stop stealing. **Begin using your hands for honest work and then give generously to others in need.** Don't use foul or abusive language. **Let everything you say be good and helpful**, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. **Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.** Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. **Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.***

Bible Versions used: NIV-New International version NLT-New Living Translation; MSG-The Message

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IN THE DISCIPLE'S HEART

- Your _____
- Your _____
- Your _____

Psalm 139:1 (NLT) O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

1. By _____
_____ on _____.

Luke 6:43-44 (NIV) "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit...."

Luke 6:45 (NIV) "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."

Psalm 119:48 (NLT) I honor and love your commands. I meditate on your principles.

Psalm 119:105 (NLT) Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

IN THE DISCIPLE'S HOME

- Your _____
- Your _____
- Your _____

2. By _____
_____ within _____.

Proverbs 13:20 (MSG) Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.

Proverbs 17:17 (NLT) A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT) for God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

IN THE DISCIPLE'S WORLD

- Your _____
- Your _____
- Your _____

3. By _____
_____ & _____
_____.

Ephesians 1:8-10 (MSG) He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.