

4. What practical steps can you take to think and live like a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ?

How can you make your home a place where your children can more easily grow in their walks with Jesus Christ?



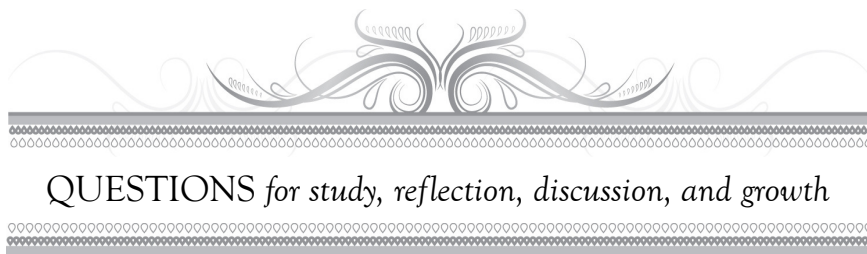
Lesson 16: The Pursuit of Holiness

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 4:17-24 | April 18-19, 2009

When we become followers of Jesus Christ, not only are we called to live in unity with other believers (Ephesians 4:1-16), we are also called to live in purity or holiness (Ephesians 4:17-32ff). Simply put, holiness is living like Jesus Christ—a life that is fully dedicated to God. For us, this means two things: one, forsaking our pre-Christian way of thinking and living, and two, pursuing our new life in Christ by the renewing of our minds (Ephesians 4:17 and 23).

- I. Leaving the Pagan Past (Ephesians 4:17-19).
 - A. The Pagan Way of Thinking (Ephesians 4:17-18a).
 1. Futility of mind.
Life with no _____, _____, or _____ . A mind not set on Christ is filled with thoughts that lead nowhere.
 2. Darkened understanding
Life with no _____. A mind not set on Christ cannot effectively distinguish between right and wrong.
 - B. The Pagan Way of Living (Ephesians 4:18b-19).
 1. Excluded from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18b).
Unbelievers are _____ from the life that comes from God.

- I. A. 1. Meaning, purpose, goal. I. A. 2. Discernment.
 I. B. 1. Separated. I. B. 1. b. Insensitive.
 II. A. Learn, truth, hear, taught.
 II. D. 1. Continuing. II. D. 2. Great refusals, godly wisdom.



QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

- a. Because of willful ignorance (Romans 1:20-21, 1 Peter 1:14).
- b. Because of hardness of heart. Unbelievers are _____ to spiritual realities.

- 2. Calloused, careless, sensual, indulgent (Ephesians 4:19).
Sadly, the portrait of a pagan (or unbeliever) is that of one who does not care about whom he hurts, how he lives, or where his desires take him.

II. Pursuing the Life of Holiness (Ephesians 4:20-24).

- A. By Learning the Truth in Jesus (Ephesians 4:20-21).
To “learn Jesus” is to _____ the _____, _____ the truth, and be _____ the truth as it is in Him.
- B. By Putting Off the Old Self (Ephesians 4:22).
Leaving behind the deceitful lusts.
- C. By Putting On the New Self (Ephesians 4:24).
The image of God restored.
- D. Renewing the Mind (Ephesians 4:23).
 - 1. The renewal of our minds is a _____ process (Romans 12:2).
 - 2. The renewing of our minds involves “_____,” and _____ (Psalm 1, Proverbs 2).

III. How Then Shall We Live?

- A. Run from the Old Life.
- B. Renew Your Mind.
- C. Resolve to Cooperate with the Work of God’s Holy Spirit.

Notes:

- 1. Read Ephesians 4:17-24, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 6, 1 Peter 1:14-16, and Colossians 3:1-10.
- 2. In looking at the above passages, how would you describe the goal of the Christian life?

How is this goal obtained?

- 3. What types of things hinder you from thinking about your life in Christ and spiritual realities?

What are some of the greatest distractions and challenges our culture presents insofar as a Christian mindset is concerned?