

Ephesians 4: 17-32



The text – Ephesians 4:17-32

1. Read Ephesians 4:17–19. Why is Paul’s language so strong?
2. What are the characteristics of futile, Gentile thinking?
3. Read Ephesians 4:20–24. What processes have changed things for the Ephesians?
4. Paul writes of ‘the old man/human’ and ‘the new man/human’. Some understand this to be two natures inside each Christian. Some understand this to be like two teams or two eras. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches?
5. What is the importance of the expression, ‘created to be like God’ (v24)?
6. Read Ephesians 4:25–32. Make a list of (i) things we should do (ii) things we shouldn’t do and (iii) the reasons that connect or explain these.
7. Is there a big theme that keeps coming up in Paul’s practical teaching? (In the sermon, Kirk thought fullness and unity were big ideas. What do you think?)

The Scriptures – Ephesians 4: 17-32 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Isaiah hoped for a day when people would leave dark and futile ways behind. What makes the change possible? Consider Isa 32:1–8; 35:1–10.
9. What are the two ways of living in Romans 8:5–11? Does this help explain the old and the new self/humanity in Ephesians?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Ephesians 4: 17-32 as a portion of the Scriptures

10. Have there been times in your life when you have lived with futile, Gentile thinking? Are you still drawn to it?
11. Is there an aspect of behaviour in 4:25–32 that God seems to be working on in your life? How can you draw on your relationship with God and with his people to help you change in this area?
12. Do you see evidence of God’s generous fullness and unifying love in the lives of people you know? Could you tell them what you see?