

The New Normal part 2
Ephesians 4:20-21

- I. Intro
 - A. Truth in Love
 - B. A new way to live, not as gentiles, but as believers
 - C. Today: We look at how exposure to Christ changed us.
- II. Text
 - A. Verse 20:
 - 1. But
 - 2. That's not the way
 - 3. You learned Christ
 - B. Verse 21:
 - 1. Assuming you heard
 - 2. And were taught
 - 3. As the truth is in Jesus
- III. Points
 - A. The Way You Learned Christ
 - 1. How did you learn about Christ?
 - a) Some of you are young folks, and you have heard about Jesus from before you were born.
 - b) Some of you encountered a believer a little later in life and began watching them, and learning from them
 - c) Some of you were against the things of God, and worked to disprove the concept of Christ, and learned about Him.
 - d) Some of you didn't learn about Jesus until you were well into adulthood and struggled to step out in faith, but did.
 - 2. Who did you learn from?
 - a) A parent, grandparent or other family member
 - b) A neighbor that took you as a child to VBS
 - c) A friend who helped you through a difficult situation
 - 3. Learning about Christ usually comes from relationships with others who learned about Christ.
 - 4. We pass down a sacred truth, and explore all the aspects of faith and relationship.
 - 5. Don't forget, someone invested in you, and in so doing, you learned about Christ.
 - 6. The verse begins with a "BUT" for a reason:
 - a) The contrast is clear
 - b) A darkened understanding is natural, but not how you learned of Jesus
 - c) Alienated by ignorance, hardness of heart, Callus in sensuality, greedy for impurity:
 - d) These things are in contrast to the way you learned about Jesus
 - B. Hearing of Christ
 - 1. Hear is a beautiful ability that comes from God
 - 2. To hear is a gift, to hear the truth of Christ is a special gift
 - 3. Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
 - a) We begin our faith journey by hearing
 - b) But ultimate hearing comes from the word of Christ
 - 4. The implication in Romans 10 and in Ephesians 4 is that there is more to hearing than sound waves passing through your ear.
 - 5. Hearing is super complex:
 - a) Sound waves...that are unseen...radiate from a source
 - b) Your outer ear directs sound waves to your eardrum and causes it to vibrate. These vibrations move through your middle ear and into your inner ear. Finally, these signals travel to your brain, which translates them into what you hear.

- c) BUT, there is that final point that causes me to not fully understand...that last step
 - (1) Waves go through our ears, vibrate a drum and little bones, and then connect to our brain
 - (2) Our brain understands these vibrations and interprets them as sound...
 - (3) There is no mechanical piece to this part, just God's design to show us we are completely dependent on Him!
- 6. Just as hearing in the physical sense comes down to sovereign design, Hearing in the spiritual sense does as well:
 - a) Hearing that which is from God, and understanding it, is only possible through the revelation and enlightenment of God
 - b) There comes a time in every faith journey when the logic, reason, and understanding of the natural man will run out, and in that place we find the voice of God speaking truth.
 - c) He who has an ear, let him hear.
- C. Teaching in Christ
 - 1. Submission to teaching is the logical next step in the growth of a believer.
 - 2. The teaching of Christ is what continues to feed us for a lifetime.
 - 3. According to Ephesians 4:21:
 - a) We were taught in him
 - b) Therefore, we submit to the teaching of Jesus as the truth is in Him
 - c) John 8:32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
 - d) When we hear, we are allowed an initial connection with God
 - e) When we are taught we are blessed with a deeper experience in understanding and growth.
 - 4. This teaching/learning relationship is empowered by our location IN CHRIST
 - 5. This is actually part of the joy of this relationship,
 - a) we hear and come to faith
 - b) We learn by being brought in to abide in Him and He in us:

John 15:1-11 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

IV. Close

- A. Live, Learn, Lead
- B. This is a concept I was working on several years ago, that I'm bringing back to my study
- C. Live in faith, learn the truth, then lead others to do the same
- D. Who are you reaching? Who are you serving?
- E. Listen and hear, grow and learn

[Eph 4:17-24 ESV] 17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!-- 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.