

Living to Please the Spirit

Ephesians 4:17-32

Revival in the Family

- A. Revival to bring to life, spiritually. To reinvigorate from a state of spiritual slumber or apathy, self-will or self-absorption.
- B. In the family to embrace revival in my particular "season of life," i.e., single, married, widowed, divorced.

- 1. Paul identifies three barriers to the light (and life) that Jesus brings. All of them appear to be related to the way people think. Are the same barriers present today?
- **Eph. 4:17-19** Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles [nonbelievers in Jesus] 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*.

Here is what Paul was up against in Ephesus.

Acts 19:24-27 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing *no little business* to the craftsmen; ²⁵ these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business. 26 "You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all. 27 "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence."





- 2. "Learning Christ" is how believers replace their old way of thinking with the truth of Jesus. But this is a process, requiring intentional effort. Do you Paul's emphasis on our thinking?
- Eph. 4:20-23 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.

- 1 Cor. 2:12-14, 16 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹⁴ But a natural man [unbeliever] does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ... but we have the mind of Christ. (NAS)
- **2 Cor. 10:5** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and *take every thought captive to obey Christ*, (ESV)
- Rom. 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)



When we begin the process of transforming our minds to line up with Jesus Christ, we may struggle like someone trying to fit into a suit that is too small!



The process of transforming our minds to line up with Jesus Christ will enable the teachings of Jesus to become our "new normal." Jesus promises life to the full! John 10:10

3. Behavior change is a result, not a first cause. Learning Jesus is the first cause.

Eph. 4:25-31 *Therefore* having *put away falsehood*, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the *thief no longer steal*, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.



Think of Jesus as the fountain that never runs out of water. We decide when the fountain is turned on, and whether we will drink the water he offers.

- How hard is it for believers to change the way we think in the context of marriage? To change the way we live in our homes?
- Eph. 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;
- Eph. 5:33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.
- Eph. 6:1-2 Children, *obey your parents* in the Lord, for this is right. ² *HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER* (which is the first commandment with a promise).

- Call to Action: Will you pray about what you can do to be more intentional about "learning Christ"? How can we make "learning Christ" a family priority?
- A. Have you discovered the "grace gifts" (spiritual gifts) that God has given you to serve others, and in the process, build up the church of Jesus Christ?
- B. Are you learning how to pray? Corporate prayer?
- C. Are you meeting with other believers who are seeking to grow in their faith in Jesus?
- D. How can you take what little time you have and commit it to "learning Christ"? His promise is to bless and redeem whatever we give to him.



2 Tim. 1:6 For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, (ESV)

Do modern-day Christians need a review of the "natural" (old self) behaviors vs the new self behaviors? If there is a disconnect, what is it? How do we make the new "clothes" fit?

- 1. Lying to those closest to me, particularly, other believers. V25
- 2. Responses filled with wrath, anger. V 26
- 3. Stealing replace with honest work. V 28.
- 4. Speech filled with expletives; talk that tears down, instead of builds up. V 29
- 5. Slander/gossip of others (politicians, teachers, coaches, fellow believers?). V311
- 6. Grieving the Holy Spirit. V 30