

Be Rich Part 8 28/06/26
Living The Life - Ephesians 4:17-5:4

Introduction

This is the first part of a long section on Christian living which goes through to 5:20. We will look at 5:5-20 next week. Note that the whole section precedes Paul's specific application to households that we looked at last week in connection with Father's Day.

Paul seems to take a very dim view of how the Gentiles lived. Do you think Christians live better lives than non-Christians? Discuss.

Read Ephesians 4:17-5:4

1. Why do you think Paul is so emphatic about living differently v17-24? Re-read 4:14-16 for the connection with v17.
2. How does Paul describe the Gentile mind v17-19?
3. Why do you think he emphasises the mind?
4. What is the place of the mind in Christian living v20-24?
5. Paul uses the analogy of clothes – putting off and putting on. Skim through the passage and identify some of the things we are to “put off” 4:22-5:5.
6. Now skim through again and identify some of the things we are to “put on” 4:22-5:5.
7. What reasons does Paul give for “putting on”?
8. In what areas have you seen progress in “putting off” and “putting on”?

9. Is there anything you still need to “put off” and “put on”?

Personal reflection:

This is not salvation by works, but works as an expression of our salvation. Remember 2:10: “We are God’s work of art, re-created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”.

The good works are not only the works of service of 4:12, but also the good life that accompanies them.

Thank God for his work in your life and ask him to give you grace where you need to improve.