

EPHESIANS 4: 22-32 THE POWER OF A NEW NATURE 7/17/22

"Heart Of Gold"- Neil Young (Point) - He will never find it in himself, or others, unless they have a new heart, a new nature with the desire and the power to live a different life in Christ.

The idea of "A better version of myself" is an attempt to dress up the old nature.

Look at 3 the things on the board from our study last week:

1. Forget all attempts to spruce up, or remodel the old nature **John 6 :63, Romans 8: 5-9, Romans 7: 18, Ephesians 2:1-3, II Cor. 3: 3-4**
2. It is as simple as if you were to take off an old, stinky garment and put on a new one.
You can operate in the new nature.
3. To live in the new nature, to become renewed in your mind through the new nature you already have since you met Christ, **you have to surrender. (Romans 12: 1-2)** You have to admit that you cannot live the Christian life operating out of the old nature.

The first hard part is admitting you cannot salvage parts of the old. Arrogant pride keeps you trying, but it never works for long. **The second hard part** is surrender. That is different from "giving up."

Otherwise you just feel bad because of a sin, and repent, but do nothing to strengthen yourself by the new nature! Then fall back again. You left a void! You then fall back.

In what areas does the effects of the new nature show up in the life of a surrendered believer in our passage today?

Speech/ Anger- Bitterness-Wrath / Stealing/Work/ Lying/ Forgiveness

TEXT TODAY: 4: 22-32 READ

4: 25 "THEREFORE" - Since it is possible to have the power to do this
because we have a new nature.

Stop following your old thought patterns generated by the old nature!

Say, "I don't have to do that; even though it feels natural." Amazing how we rarely question the source of our own thoughts. A. Not thinking about our thinking. B. Feeling rushed to react. Two tactics of our enemy.

Say, "I don't have to fall into one of my moods!"

Say, "I am no longer a natural man but am now a spiritual man." I Cor. 2: 11-16

Stop saying, "If I really try hard, one more time, I can get over this!" That is pride from the old nature talking. Again, the hard parts are admitting you can't do it by mere self-effort; and surrendering so God can work through the new nature.

Ex. Did Jesus make the Christian life sound impossible in Mt. 10: 38-39. Well did he forget what he said when just a chapter later we read Mt. 11: 28-30? No contradiction here, but a changed heart and new heart!

Don't say, "Given ideal circumstances I could be a better person by my own effort!"

Don't say, "Well, I could show you a lot of people not doing as well as I am in morality! And in view of the sin in the world today I really am a good old boy and that has to be good enough!"

4: 25 cont. (v.15, 25, 29-30) all deal with SPEECH

Question: Is it as bad as the other vices?

Yes, it is the product of long-term thoughts. Thoughts, speech, actions (Ex. Matthew 5:27-28)

"FALSEHOOD" - is an attempt to build a false image you want others to buy.

Ex. A lying spirit keeps one from ever giving a true apology, or seeing the need for a new nature.

"I am sorry that you misunderstood my intentions." (Translation: I am really perfect, you are just too dumb to realize it.) Every politicians apology ever!

4:26 Good Anger ? - Provoked by presence of evil and injustice. Righteous indignation.

Ex. Jesus cleansing the temple/ Rebuking Pharisees Matthew 23/ Peter rebuking Simon in Acts 8 – not because of personal insults!

In 4: 31 this is a different anger. Outburst of emotional temper- angry a lot of the times/ anger because of wounded pride/anger because of personal insult. No good comes out of that kind of anger.

4: 27 Even good anger has to be kept in check!

“Passionate feelings against people or their actions are not to be kept long, lest they break down the love that seeks to bring good out of evil.” (Romans 12: 17-21)

4: 28 The reason to work is not just to take care of you and yours.

4: 29 **SAPROS LOGOS** – “Rotten, putrid, spoiled word” Just venting and no one benefiting?/ Does it need to be said?/ Is it said to make you look smart?

4: 30 **“Grieve”** You cannot grieve an “IT.” This is the Holy Spirit, not the force off Star Wars! (“Use the Lord- Use the force”)

Ex. Rick Bowen -Conscience vs. H.S - “ Where before I was sorry for the consequences of doing wrong, but now it is like I have hurt an innocent person.”

4: 31-32 These usually express themselves in speech. Your eyes are not the window to your soul; your speech is the window to the soul. **Settled attitudes flow out in speech.**

BITTERNESS – (**Hebrews 12: 14-17**) Nursing a wound/ Keeping a record of wrongs done to you/ Build up the offense; magnify the event as if you , the king of the world had dared to be insulted!/ Refusing to be reconciled with the person, because you get so much sympathy from those you tell the story to; over, and over, and over again!

WRATH- **ORGE** - Sudden outburst of emotion against someone with intent for payback.

ANGER- **THUMOS** - A settled condition. Usually because someone got the recognition and you did not. Personal attack on you, wounding your pride.

CLAMOR- Stirring up others against a person so they choose your side.

SLANDER- **4: 27 –“Devil”** - the word means “slanderer.” Misrepresenting the situation to make you look better.

MALICE- Planned intention to publically hurt someone.

FORGIVING- **Romans 5: 6-8 – Matthew 18: 21-35-**

From the greater to the lesser- (a fortiori)

QUESTION: Still think a little “clean up job “ will please God? Review 3 things again on board.