

New Life – Part 2 – May 17, 2023

Life should be different after becoming a Christian. This is our struggle. We're "**born again.**" New life. New journey, new creation, heart & spirit.

Ephesians 4:22–24 – NiV: “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

This is a Daily Process. A journey. We'll make mistakes... have a goal.

1 Eph. 4:1-3 – “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

♥ Humble, gentle, patient.

- **NLT** – “Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.” **God qualities.**
 - **Make allowance?** We excuse it; forgive it. 70x7.
 - **Forgive.** Don’t live with hurt, anger, resentment. That’s what happens if we don’t make an allowance. We’re critical, unmerciful.
 - Forgiving allows us “bear w/one another.” **We stay.**
- Keep **unity of the Spirit.**
 - Trinity - the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - We all have a place. A purpose.
 - Live at peace w/each other. Not jealous. Don’t take over. Be you.

2 4:25 “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Kid sermon? Easy! Don’t lie, tell the truth. Calm down. Don’t take what doesn’t belong to you; Share.

- But this is to adults in Ephesus. And in Colosse. We know this.

- We're saints with a sinful nature. It's common; we all screw up.
 - **Romans 7:15** – “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do. But what I hate, I do.”
 - **Romans 7:19** - “For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do.”
- **Lying** is our old nature. Kids do it, and so do adults. So do saints.
 - **“Put off Falsehood”** - deceptive; tall tale, lying, fibbing, ½ truth.
 - Bible gives many examples of falsehoods: Satan lies to Eve
 - Abraham lies about Sarah - sister not wife
 - Jacob lies to Isaac to steal the birthright of his brother.
 - Laban deceives Jacob with Leah instead of Rachel.
 - Rahab lies about the spies.
 - David lied to a priest for bread & sword.
 - Peter lies about knowing Jesus.
 - Ananias & Sapphira lie about the \$ made when sold land.
 - The Bible says: better to be poor than a liar.” **Prov. 19:22**
 - Lying is a common sin. Lying is of Satan. Jesus said the devil is the father of lies (**John 8:44**).
 - We lie. We exaggerate. We even ask others to lie for us.
 - Little White lies. Lies of omission. Lies of exaggeration. Silent. Evasive lies. Polite lies. Cover-up lies.
 - God never lies. He cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**). We're with Him now. New life . . . new way of living. Honestly.
 - H.S. - voice of truth. Jesus - “the way the truth the life.” God is truth.
 - Be honest – we're “all members of one body.”
- **26** “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** and do not give the devil a foothold.
 - **Christians don't lose emotions.** We get angry. Ok. Jesus did too.
 - Consider why we get angry. Matter? Hot headed & quick temper.
 - Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry – **James 1:19**

- “But you, Lord, are a compassionate & gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth” – **Psm. 86:15**
 - Work on being slow to anger. Not a big deal.
 - Work on Self-control. Don’t sin in our anger. Say things/regret.
 - Anger is a foothold. It’s Normandy. Foothold. Not liberation
 - Captive. Regret. Shame.
 - Deal w/ anger right away. Don’t let sun go down. Festers is forever.
- Don’t steal. Work - be useful, & share.
 - Honest labor. Honest earnings.
 - Not padding time. Claiming actual expenses. Paying for all.
 - Remote work . . . honest work.
 - We’re to be useful so we “have something to share with those in need.”
 - **Work to be a blessing.** Work is more than just for ourselves.
 - “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” – **Heb. 13:16**
 - **Even retired . . . be useful.**
 - **Isaiah 58:11** – “if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

Living a new life is a process. We’ll screw up, like Paul.

But mercies are new every day. **Put on your new nature – vs. 24.**

- **Vs. 23** – “**let** the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.”
- Live a life worthy of our calling

Song of the week – “More Like Jesus” - Kristian Stanfill