

Ephesians 4:25-32

Live Like It

Main idea: Since we are made new in Jesus, we rejoice in Jesus by living a new life in Him.

Talking about the transformation of becoming a Christian, the Bible uses the language of being born again.

[John 3:3] [1 Peter 1:23] [2 Corinthians 5:17]

- In one of his lesser known quotes, C.S. Lewis said something similar. [quote]¹
- God doesn't want for us to remain the same. He wants us to be made new in Christ.²

Read Ephesians 4:25-32

Ephesians 4:17–24 tells us we've taken off the old self and put on the new, created to be like God.

- C.S. Lewis said something else that pertains to this. [quote]²
- So in our passage this morning, Paul gets super practical about how to do that.
- He shows us what it looks like to *live* new.⁴

There are many commands in this passage instructing us how to live, but there are 6 categories they fall into.

First, Paul instructs us to live truthfully. (v. 25)

- Being made new means replacing lies with truth.⁵
- There are various studies about how often people lie. [poll 1] [poll 2] [poll 3]
- But in Christ, we belong to each other! We're one body.⁶
 - When we lie to one another, we damage the body.
 - And since we're one body, we're even lying to ourselves.
- Let your words be trustworthy: on social media, at work, in your home. [Matthew 12:36]
- Part of being new in Jesus means that we begin to speak truth because we belong to a new family.

Second, live righteously. (v. 26-27)

- Anger isn't always wrong, but sinful anger is.⁷
- It's kind of like giving in to road rage. [photo]
 - It's not wrong to be angry at the injustice of a bad driver, and how he will potentially hurt others.⁸
 - It is wrong if it causes you to be reckless as well.
- Letting anger fester leads to bitterness and division, giving Satan a foothold.⁹
- When you're angry, ask yourself: Is this righteous anger or selfish frustration?
- Deal with conflict differently than the world does, because you've been made new.

Third, live generously. (v. 28)

- The gospel not only changes our hearts but our hands. We go from taking to giving.¹⁰
- And even if you've never stolen anything, we should even think about work differently.
- Work is not just for self-gain, but for blessing others. Use your income to serve others.¹¹
- I don't talk about tithing much for various reasons.¹²
- But even though the New Testament doesn't command that we give a tithe, we should want to give generously and sacrificially to the work that God is doing. [poll]¹³
- As new creations, we're to work and give like someone transformed by Jesus.

Fourth, live graciously. (v. 29)

- Words can tear down or build up.¹⁴
- In addition to his tv program, you may not know that Mr. Rogers wrote to his fans.¹⁵ [letter 1] [letter 2]

- The new life in Christ transforms our speech into instruments of grace.¹⁶
- “Corrupting talk” is anything that tears others down such as sarcasm, gossip, and criticism.
- Instead, we’re to intentionally encourage, bless, and speak life into others.¹⁷
- As people made new in Jesus, let your speech reflect your Savior.

Fifth, live sensitive to the Spirit. (v. 30)

- We talked about this all the way back in Ephesians 1. [Ephesians 1:13-14]
- The Spirit lives in us. So when we live in a way that contradicts our new identity, it grieves Him.
- God loves you so much that He doesn’t want you to cling to sin!¹⁸
 - Imagine a friend going down the wrong road. A good friend is going to address it.
 - Imagine a child who finds a sharp knife. A good parent isn’t going to just let them play with it!
 - About 100,000 people die each year from drug overdosing. [chart]
 - God doesn’t want us to self-destruct!
- So in everything you do, ask yourself, “Does this please God or grieve Him?”
- Don’t treat salvation lightly, live as new in Christ, because you are.

Sixth and finally, live forgivingly. (v. 31-32)

- We’re to live new lives by trading bitterness for kindness, revenge for mercy, and resentment for forgiveness, just as God forgave us.
- Throughout life, we tend to carry more and more of the weights of how people have offended us.¹⁹
 - Unforgiveness is like carrying a backpack full of bricks: it’s heavy and pointless!
 - But forgiveness allows us to let them go.
- Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Don’t wait until you “feel like it.” Forgive because you’ve been forgiven.
- As people forgiven by God, new in Christ, live like it: show others what God’s forgiveness looks like.

God has made you new, not just in theory, but in reality. So live like it.

- Live truthfully. Live righteously. Live generously, graciously, sensitive to the Spirit, and forgiving others.
- Not to earn salvation, but because you have salvation.
- Let your life be a joyful celebration of what Jesus has done for you. Rejoice in His grace, and let your transformed life proclaim it.

Endnotes

1. “It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird... It is a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg.” -C.S. Lewis
2. Romans 12:2
3. “You cannot go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” -C.S. Lewis
4. Philippians 2:5, Romans 6:4
5. Colossians 3:9-10
6. Romans 12:5
7. James 1:19-20
8. Proverbs 31:9
9. James 1:20
10. Acts 20:35
11. Proverbs 11:25
12. It’s an Old Testament command, and even that is an oversimplification since Jews gave closer to 25% or 30% of their income through the various offerings. The New Testament ideal is to give cheerfully.
13. The average Christian only gives about 2.5% of their income today.
14. Proverbs 18:21
15. He personally responded to every letter he received from a fan, encouraging them, and building them up.
16. Colossians 4:6
17. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
18. Hebrews 12:6
19. Matthew 11:28-30