

Growing Up

Becoming more like Jesus

SERMON GUIDE

I WANNA BE LIKE CHRIST!

EPHESIANS 4:22-24

JULY 5, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting them somewhere you will remember what you've learned.

Truth to remember:

Truth put to action:

Truth to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some possible next steps to walk in this truth this week.

- Take some time this Sunday afternoon to prayerfully consider what areas of your life still stink of your old clothes and of your old self. If you're able, involve your spouse or a close friend to help you find the blind spots. (Read the rest Ephesians 4-6 to help you)
- Consider what it practically looks like to renew the spirit of your mind each day.
- Talk with someone this week that has walked with the Lord longer than you and ask them in what ways the Lord has helped them put on the new self.
- Memorize Ephesians 4:29 and ask the Lord to help you live this out as you interact with others, especially those how do not know the Lord.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- For further help putting off the old self and putting on the new take a look at Thomas Brooks' book *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, or *The Hole in Our Holiness* by Kevin DeYoung.

- For an incredibly challenging and encouraging book on running to race of faith read *Holiness* by J.C. Ryle.
- **Put Off, Put On:** Col. 3:1-17, Gal. 5:16-28, I Cor. 6:9-11, I Peter 1:13-14
- **Importance of holiness:** Eph. 1:4, Heb. 12:14, I Peter 1:16-19, I Thess. 4:7, 2 Tim. 1:8-10, 1 Pet. 2:21-25
- **Remember the Gospel:** Col. 2:13-15, Eph. 2:1-10

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

1. Before your group talks about the sermon, go around the room and reflect on any evidences of grace or new mercies your group has experienced from the Lord this week. Rejoice that the Lord is at work!
2. **Why is it important for Christians who are saved by grace to work hard at putting off the old self and putting on the new? If we are going to be made perfectly holy in heaven, why is it important to strive to be holy this side of heaven? Why is holiness so important to God?**
3. **What are some sinful pitfalls that many well-meaning Christians can fall into while striving to be like Christ? How can we guard ourselves against these pitfalls? How do we strive for holiness in the Christ's strength and not our own?**
4. **How do you respond to moments that we fail to look like Christ? What are some truths from Scripture that give you encouragement to keep fighting? What are some practical ways to remind yourself to keep practicing the put off put on?**
5. It's often easy to focus on the things we need to improve and forget all the ways God has molded you into Christ's likeness since you first believed. What are some ways, in which you know the Holy Spirit, has changed you since you became a Christian. (It's okay for others to point out graces in each other's lives)
6. Break up into groups of men and women and discuss specific areas in which you need to put off the old self and put on the new. In what areas is Christ not seen clearly? Your speech? Attitude? After you share, make sure one of the members of our group commits to asking you in a few days how that battle is going. Use that time to encourage and pray for one another outside of small group and a normal Sunday interaction.

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Praise God for all the ways in which He has conformed you into Christ's likeness.
- Ask God to help you to see "old self" clothing that is hindering your witness in the church and the world. Confess that sin to God, and know that Christ has already paid our debt so we can live to righteousness.
- Pray for Christians you know in the secular workplace who need wisdom in how to speak the truth in love.

- Pray for our upcoming spotlight event LIVE|15. Ask the Lord to use this month to connect many people to small groups, and get connected to the body.
- Sing Martin Luther's *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* as a prayer in closing.

