



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Relationships: Living Well”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe – November 3, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Is there someone people say you look like? Do you agree or disagree?
- Do you have a nickname? How did it come about?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Ephesians 4:17

¹⁷Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Perception of life without Christ-

The Ephesus church lived in a culture that promoted sensuality and greed. Paul was insisting that the saints in Ephesus remember they had a new identity in Christ. Before the Ephesus saints learned and believed the truth, their perception of reality was void of embracing the ways of God. Their view of reality was about indulging in all forms of self-pleasure. Their old way of impure behavior was due to their godless way of thinking. We must be mentally on guard against ungodliness while helping unbelievers see the value of life with Christ.

Tension between life before Christ and after believing in Christ-

It is easy to think about our past life and how sin was enjoyable. However, scripture teaches that sin is enjoyable for a season but in the end is destruction. Paul teaches the importance of remembering that in Christ we are new and we should no longer give way to our old self. That includes in our thoughts because they influence our actions.

Living well comes through Christ alone-

Grace is empowerment we receive from Jesus Christ when we become saved. God gives us grace as a gift. Through grace we can put off old thought patterns and actions produced by shame, sensuality, greed, and deceitfulness. When we live by grace, we experience the good works that he has prepared beforehand for us to walk in. (Ephesians 2:10)

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How do you tend to define the grace of God?
- How do you guard your mind from thinking ungodly thoughts?
- What role do the perceptions of others play in your life?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the grace to imitate Christ.
- Ask God to show us how others influence our perception in positive and negative ways.
- Ask God for a deeper revelation of our identity in Christ.