

We The Redeemed

Ephesians 4:7-32

We the **REDEEMED**

Now this I say and testify to the Lord, that you must no longer walk as Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. vv. 17-19

What does an Un-Redeemed Life look like?

- ❑ **Two components: heart & mind**
- ❑ **Poisoned heart causes a poisoned mind**
- ❑ **Unredeemed mind is described as: “futile”, “darkened”, “alienated from the life of God” and “ignorant”. The result of such a mind is a “greed for impurity”.**
- ❑ **Why? “Due to the hardness of their heart” and its “callousness”.**

Now this I say and testify to the Lord, that you must no longer walk as Gentiles do, in the **futility of their minds**. They are **darkened** in understanding, **alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the **hardness of heart**. They have become **callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, **greedy to practice every kind of impurity**. vv. 17-19

Hardness of Heart?

Who is at the center of my life?

Spot Check Time

- What are the questions that you most often ask yourself?**

- When you woke up this morning, did you ask:**
 - What do I want to accomplish today? What are my obligations? What am I most scared of? Does anybody know about that sin that I am ashamed of?**

Spot Check Time

- Or did you ask:
 - What does my wife want for lunch? What can I do to help my students learn better? How can I help my children today? How can I help that old lady?**

Spot Check Time

- Or did you ask:**
 - What does my wife want for lunch? What can I do to help my students learn better? How can I help my children today? How can I help that old lady?**
 - What does my boss think of me? Does she think I'm a dumbo? Does my boyfriend think I'm fat?**

Spotted the problem yet?

Spot Check Time

- Instead, how often do we frame our questions this way?
 - God what are you saying about student X who makes me want to scream!!?!
 - God what are you saying about my unreasonable boss?
 - God why is my CO so incompetent?
 - God, how do you feel about me?

We signed up to lose control.

Losing Control

- “your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**
- “give us today our daily bread”**
- “as we forgive our debtors”**
- “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it.”**

**When we soften and surrender our hearts,
they are free.**

So how?

**But that is not the way you learned Christ!—
assuming that you have heard about him and were
taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off
your old self, which belongs to your former manner
of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and
to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to
put on the new self, created after the likeness of
God in true righteousness and holiness. - vv. 20-24**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Romans 12:2

“Renewing the Spirit of the Mind” (that’s chim)

how about...

Do I share God’s mind?

**For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord;
I sing for joy at what your hands have done.
How great are your works, Lord,
how profound your thoughts! - Ps. 92:4-5**

Renewing the Spirit of the Mind

- If you're a nature lover, a scientist, architect, doctor, engineer, etc. you can appreciate the hands of God. Its everywhere.
- How about if you're the "thinking kind" who gets lost in his/her own thoughts?

**Be transformed by the renewing of your minds
- Romans 12:2**

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Let the thief **no longer steal**, but rather let him labor, doing **honest work** with his own hands, so that he may have **something to share** with anyone in need. v. 28

The **WRONG**: thief must stop stealing

The **NOT-WRONG**: thief should work if he wants things

The **RIGHT**: thief must rethink his desire for material things and give what he earns away.

This is what a fully redeemed life looks like:

It sheds the appearances for real transformation.

When we are interested in the appearance rather than the mind of holiness, we “grieve the Holy Spirit”.

**Anger, lying, stealing, lust:
social (outward oriented) sins.**

“Conceal, don’t feel don’t let them know...”

**but removing social sins are
important for building a WE.**

**If WE don't trust each other,
there is no WE.**

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” - Jn 13:34

We THE Redeemed

THE?!

- Oxford English Dictionary:** (pronounced stressing 'the') used to indicate that someone or something is the best known of that name or type: he was **THE** hot young piano prospect in jazz.
- Urban Dictionary:** a common misspelling of "teh"

Let **no corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but only such as is **good for building up, as fits the occasion**, that it may **give grace** to those who hear.... Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. vv. 29-32**

Good for Building Up...

As fits the Occasion

- It's always easier to oppose than propose.
- When we speak, what are our core unspoken principles?
- Your logic should be the last of them.

“For my thoughts are nothing like your thoughts”
says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond
anything you could imagine.” - Is 55:8

There Are More Powerful Things...

Parental Love

Covenantal
Love

Godly
Sacrifice

God-Fearing
Fellowship

These things DEFY logic and they are BEAUTIFUL.

Does your speech “give grace”?

PMC THE REDEEMED

Methodists THE REDEEMED

Singapore THE REDEEMED

Acted out, not
“wayang”

Transformed
hearts & minds

WE THE REDEEMED

“best known of
that type”

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