

Put On The New Self
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Ephesians 4:17-32

“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.”
(Ephesians 4:20-24, ESV)

Introduction

Our Hope Chapel churches, like others which emerged from the Jesus Movement, typically followed a pattern of altar calls as opportunities for repentance and the acceptance of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Water baptism would normally follow, sometimes leading to a baptism with the Holy Spirit, after which intentional involvement in the community of MiniChurches where worship, prayer, care, growth and outreach might occur. But when and where these biblical and historical elements of Christian initiation are not practiced, converts may mistakenly believe that becoming a Christian is “receiving Jesus” in order to get to heaven. While that is partly true, the Christian faith is not just concerned with getting people into heaven, but also with getting some heaven into people!

1. Faith is Christ is not just belief but a lifestyle. (Ephesians 4:17-24)

- a) Why futility and darkness accompany being alienated from the life of God.
- b) Our part in putting off the old self and putting on the new self in Christ.

2. Repentance, redemption, restoration and relationship. (Ephesians 4:25-30)

- a) Giving no opportunity to the devil.
- b) Being careful to not grieve the Holy Spirit of God who indwells you.

3. Grace freely received and freely shared. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

- a) Cooperating with the convicting and cleansing power of the Holy Spirit through confession.
- b) Forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you and I.

Conclusion

God’s love reaches down to us where we are and lifts us up, envelopes and enthralls us at the deepest part of our being and from there effects change—darkness is turned to light, cold stone hearts are warmed and softened without losing strength; pride, fear and rebellion give way to love, humility and trust. God doesn’t just love us as is, God’s love for us doesn’t rest until we have become the best version of ourselves that we could be, that version of ourselves that God saw when He formed us in our mother’s womb, and that no matter what we may have lost, He seeks to someday reveal as restored in and through and because of His power, love and faithfulness towards all who believe.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

- 1) How does Paul contrast the lifestyles of those who know God with those who don’t?
- 2) What do you think it means to “put on the new self” you have received in Christ?
- 3) What is the Word and Spirit of God saying to you about the “four R’s” mentioned today?

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