

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 11/17/2019

“Gospel Transformation” from Ephesians 4:17-24 by Drew Hunter

Overview

This text from Ephesians 4 reminds us of not only our call to be like Christ but also how that change takes place. It does not come about from us simply trying harder and otherwise pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. Real Christian growth and transformation happens when we do the following, seeing:

- 1) What we leave behind (v.17-19)
- 2) Why transformation matters (v.20-21)
- 3) How to change (v.22-24)

For Christians, the road to transformation will be marked not only by sinning less but also by repenting more.

Quotations

“There’s a great sermon by Thomas Chalmers. He was a Scottish pastor in the 1800s. The whole sermon is great, but the title itself makes the point. Here was the title: ‘The expulsive power of a new affection.’ Here’s his point: You can’t just get rid of desires. You can’t just say no to desires and expect them to leave. You have to have those old desires pushed out by new desires.”

“We are all nice, evil people.”

Understanding & Application

- 1) What is the fundamental problem that every person faces when trying to live a life that pleases God (see v.18)?
- 2) What is significant about the fact that v.23 calls us to “be renewed” in the passive tense? What is our role? What is the Holy Spirit’s role in sanctification?
- 3) How is the “new self” described by the New Testament? Pull from verses in Ephesians and other places in the NT as well.
- 4) What happens if we only try to put off our old self?
- 5) What happens if we only try to be renewed?
- 6) What happens if we only try to put on the new self but aren’t renewed internally?
- 7) Highlight some of the ways it is considered countercultural today to put off, deny, and even put to death our “old self.”