
Sermon Notes

December 30, 2018

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Put on the New Self Ephesians 4:17-32

Self-improvement?

- ❖ Are you making resolutions or "a few tweaks" here and there in order to be more healthy, disciplined, etc...?
- ❖ Following Jesus is not a program for personal improvement
- ❖ Follow Jesus is:
 - a path of total transformation
 - a newness of life
 - having a new mind, will and heart
- ❖ Becoming God's child through faith in Jesus does not result in you simply receiving something new but in actually **becoming** something new
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Galatians 2:20
- ❖ A changed identity demands a changed behavior

Before and After

- ❖ What did you look like **before** you welcomed Jesus to take charge of your life?
 - Ephesians 4:17-32 is up close and personal
 - remember what your life was like BC
 - mind tied up with futile thinking, foolish speculation, human-centered philosophy
 - looking for satisfaction in ways that only led to disappointment
 - ignorance and immorality reigned in your life
 - you had a stony, petrified, calcified heart
 - unbridled self-indulgence, undisciplined obscenity
- ❖ Jesus is the dividing line of history and a personal dividing point in the life of everyone who is saved by Him
- ❖ What our lives look like **after** we "learn Christ"
 - those who have "learned Christ", "heard Christ" and been "taught in Christ" are called to put off their old self and to put on the new self
 - the new self is Christ-centered and purposeful
 - v. 23, *be renewed in the spirit of your minds*
 - ongoing, continual work of the Spirit in the child of God
 - wear the clothes of the lifestyle that matches the life inside of you

- the new self
 - is created after the likeness of God
 - is marked by true righteousness and holiness
 - speaks truth
 - expresses righteous anger
 - shares instead of steals
 - speaks wholesome words
 - is kind, tenderhearted and compassionate

❖ Put on the new self, don't walk around looking like and smelling like death

Personal Application

1. Is your pursuit of the Christian life more like a self-improvement program or a complete rebuild? Based on Ephesians 4:17-32, does anything need to change in the way you approach living in Christ?
2. Would you describe yourself as being more self-centered or Christ-centered?
3. What was your life like before Christ moved in on you? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20. What's new in you? What has Christ done in you that proves to you beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have become a new person?