

SESSION 20
EPHESIANS 4.31-5.2

Overarching Themes In Ephesians: "The letter dwells profoundly on the Person of Jesus Christ and The Church." RP Martin

Context: Paul's exposition of the believer's behavior empowered by the presence of a renewed mind.

A renewed mind is a mind that is surrendered afresh in the present moment to the indwelling Holy Spirit bringing the fullness of Christ into present experience, reflecting the reality of the New Nature within the believer, a nature that in Christ dwells in intimate fellowship with God in perfect righteousness and holiness.

The last session considered the specifics of dealing with anger, the need for honest labor, and the huge challenge of taming the tongue, concluding with the truth that the sin perpetrated by what we do and what we say grieves the Holy Spirit, wounding Him, denying in practice the meaning of His indwelling and sanctifying presence.

Learning Targets For Enduring Understanding From This Session: To further understand the marvelous fruit of a mind renewed in Christ, which is a behavior that imitates God Himself fulfilling the highest call of human existence.

V 31 How would you characterize the command in this verse? Js 3.6-12

"The tongue is settled in our members as a world of unrighteousness that stains the whole personality." Ronald Ward

Js 1.19

V 32a What are the dimensions of kindness?

V 32b What does Paul identify as the best foundation for the believer's personal conduct within the Body of Christ?

The renewed mind functions upon the platform of God's forgiveness for personal sin in simple humility before Him, thankful for His mercy. A grateful heart is not given to criticism or complaint.

How is our capacity to forgive one another empowered?

Why is forgiveness so immensely important in preserving a healthy and vibrant spiritual construction of heart and mind?

Unforgiveness is slavery. Unforgiveness will become a fixation that darkens spiritual vision and crushes the fragile beauty of the evolution of Christ's character within us.

Jn 8.34-36

Chapter 5 begins with "Therefore" that indicates a shift in the venue that Paul is considering in his exhortation, moving from the believer's deportment in the Body of Christ to the Christian's bearing in the world.

V 1a What is the thrust of Paul's command in this verse? Col 2.9 Eph 3.19

It is possible in your practical life experience to, under the direction of a Christ – illuminated renewed mind, imitate God Himself. Gen 1.26-27

V 1b What is the importance of the descriptor "as beloved children"?

V 2 What is the essence of this command?

The behavioral expression of your renewed mind in the present moment and throughout the life is the agape love of Christ Jesus flowing through you, impacting everything and everyone encountered on your road to Zion, reflecting the reality of Christ within you, reigning in His fullness to the glory of God.

Jn 15.5