



## ***“Walking in Newness of Life- Part 2”***

**Sermon Date: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### **Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

*Below is a reference to the section of the New City Catechism that we went over on Sunday:*

#### **The New City Catechism—Lord’s Day 8**

##### **What is the Law of God Stated in the Ten Commandments?**

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below—you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

### **Prayer**

Praise the Holy Spirit for giving us new life—a life that is being transformed into the image of the Son. Praise Jesus for His life, death, and resurrection which have secured our new life. Praise God who issues His people commands, and the ability to obey them, that we might maintain the unity that has been established among His people. As you pray, consider making this prayer your own (this prayer was taken from Everyday Prayers by Scotty Smith).

*Merciful Father, mighty Holy Spirit, most compassionate Lord Jesus, I praise you today for the love with which you love us, in which you have rooted us, and by which you are transforming us.*

*Lord Jesus, you are so kind, compassionate, and forgiving of me. I want the fragrant aroma of the sacrifice you made for me on the cross to permeate all of my relationships. You’re not calling me to change anybody. You’re calling me to live as a broken perfume bottle through which the aroma of grace will bring your disruptive and gentling presence. Let me live more out of brokenness than out of my woundedness and self-righteousness.*

*God the Holy Spirit, you who raised Jesus from the dead, give me the power I need today to rid myself—not to nurse, tolerate, or justify—my bitterness, anger, rage, brawling, slander, and malice and all the other ways I love poorly. Indeed, Triune God, the life of love you live for me, please live through me. I pray in Jesus’ peerless name. Amen.*

## **Scripture**

### ***Ephesians 4:25-32 (ESV)***

*<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

## **Handling the Word**

Let's break down the passage:

1. How does our new life in Christ affect our words? (v. 25)
2. How does being created after the likeness of God affect our anger? (vv. 26-27)
3. How does the new self in Christ affect our needs and why we work? (v. 28)
4. How do our new affections in Christ shape the way we talk to or about people? (v. 29)
5. How should we relate to the Holy Spirit given His indwelling presence? (v. 30)
6. What is to be put off with the old self and what is to be put on with the new self? (vv. 31-32)

## **Understanding and Applying**

1. Considering what is already true of us, hence the word ‘therefore’ (v. 25), Paul now presents us with various commands or implications for our new life in Christ. Do you think our struggle to overcome sin is perpetuated, rather than alleviated, when we are called to obey but not told who we are in Christ (Romans 3:19-20; Ephesians 2:10)? Assuming you’re struggling to love the saints, why is “you’re a new creation, live accordingly” a better motivation than “you’re sinning, stop it”?
2. Our new life in Christ consists of putting off our former manner of life *and* putting on what is true of our new life in Christ (vv. 25-32). “To attempt to do one without the other leads only to failure” (Ferguson). Having been united to a body of believers, why is it not enough to merely put off sin without also loving the saints? Furthermore, why is it inconsistent to attempt to do good to others but not deal with our sin?
3. Given that we are ‘members of one another,’ Paul encourages the saints to ‘put away falsehood’ or “lies, pretense, hypocrisy” (Ferguson) and instead, ‘speak the truth’ (v. 25). Why does lying dismantle the unity that Christ has established among His people? How does speaking the truth contribute to trust or the fellowship of the saints? Give examples.
4. As image bearers of God, we are permitted to ‘be angry’ and hate what God hates, however we are not to let our anger fester or be used by the devil (vv. 26-27). For the Christian, what are some examples of permissible or righteous anger? If our anger goes unchecked and Satan gains the advantage, our anger may turn to alienation, rumors, self-justification, and factions (Ferguson). Given this, how does uncontrolled anger lead to hurt or division in the church body?

5. Our former manner of life coveted what was not ours and was selfish in our pursuits, but our new life in Christ works for our needs and the needs of others (v. 28). Why does stealing, covetousness, or selfishness hurt relationships? Would you say that your life in Christ has led you to honest work, work that doesn't merely benefit you but benefits others through providing, sharing, and giving?
6. The believer, created after the likeness of God, is to no longer speak corruptly— "dishonest, unkind, or vulgar" (Stott)—but speak in such a way that we build up other believers (v. 29). Have you ever communicated words, serious or jokingly, that hurt, offended, or belittled a fellow saint? Please share. How have words from others at LG been a source of encouragement?
7. Given the personhood of the Holy Spirit, and the reality that He dwells within us, it is possible for us to grieve Him (v. 30). John Stott says that the Spirit is grieved by unholiness towards God and disunity among believers. How does neglecting Paul's commands in verse 31 lend to unholiness and disunity and thus, grieve the Spirit? How is the Spirit leading us to walk (v. 32; Galatians 5:22-26)?
8. To ensure that we don't fall into mere behavioral modification, our call to forgive others is motivated by the forgiveness that we have already received in Christ Jesus (v. 32). Why does God's forgiveness towards *you* in Christ encourage and enable you to forgive those who have offended you at LG (Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:4-6; 1 John 2:1-2)?
9. Praise God who enables us to live for Him, and thus love and honor His people. Further, praise God who knows our tendency to sin and thus has issued the command and the ability to walk in forgiveness. To close, is there anyone that you may need to either forgive or seek forgiveness from?

*"The Christian life that has 'learned Christ' (Eph. 4:20) and has been 'created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness' (Eph. 4:24) is a morally and relationally transformed life. The gospel that makes us right with God plants within our lives the life of God. Not only do believers live their lives in Christ, but God in Christ lives in them. Rather than dismissing notions of duty and demand, the gospel of God's extravagant grace to us in Christ provides both the doctrinal rationality and personal desire to live a life of glad obedience to God's commandments."*

*-Ian Hamilton*