The Dynamics of Change and the New Life Ephesians 4:17-24

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Challenge:			tell where I'm	– they don't	me.	
1. Read the Signs:			he Si	gns:		
	-			: Our thoughts, beliefs,	reasoning	
	-			: Our values, choices, dr	reams	
: Our habits, words, offerings						
	I'm			in the life of God	or	_from the
	life (of (Sod			
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2.	-	-		w life from	! Ezekiel 11:18-21	& 36:26-27
2.	Rec	eiv	e ne	w life from change, changes our		
2.	Reco	eiv	e ne		·	!
2.	Reco	eiv A	e nev	change, changes our	- - -	! !
2.	Reco	eiv A A	e nev	change, changes our changes our	- - -	! !
2.	Reco	eiv A A	e nev	change, changes our change, changes our change requires	- - -	! !

Discussion Guide: Change Dynamics

Walk no longer... lay aside the old self...Be renewed... put on the new self...

Mark Twain said that no one likes change – except a wet baby. Agree/Dis?

How do you handle change? What's your change tolerance 1-10?

1 3 6 10

I hate change I like same I get bored with same I love change & try to avoid change and will accept change & seek changes

Switch the word "change" with the term "new." *New* car, job, haircut, year Does it *change* how you feel about the statements?

i.e. Do you hate it when things change but love new things?

2. What have been the bigger changes in your life?

- Did you perceive them as positive or negative?
- How did you deal with them?
- Have you ever been forced into a change that seemed very negative but it led to something positive or resulted in ultimate good? Explain.

3. Review Ephesians 4:17-20.

- List all the terms that relate to the mind. e.g. "mind, understanding" 18
- List all the terms relating to the *heart*.
- What do you think is the distinction between these two?
- What influences our mind and heart?
 - O What part of that is God's work and what part is mine/others?
 - Can we/should we consider and control the influences on these? Why? How? What challenges you personally in this? What are the gateways to your mind & heart? Can we guard them? Do I? How?
 - Is it possible to think one way and live another? Is it possible to love something and not allow it to affect our words, actions, life?

4. What does being a new person in Christ mean to you?

- What part of that is already a done deal for you?
- What part of it is still in process?
- What part of that process is going well for you?
- What part is challenging or discouraging to you?

5. How can we get the help of *personal trainers* when we face change?

- The Spirit of God?
- The Community of Christ?
- Our family?
- Others?

Prayer Target: Pray for each of us (personally) & all of us (our church) to be changed to reflect the glory of God and the image of Christ.

You may follow the model of the text in prayer by filling in this statement: May I walk no longer in... & be renewed in... so I reflect the likeness of God by...

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We are all being changed t	to fit our	destiny
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Walk no longer			
excluded from the life	18		
lay aside the old self	22		
Be renewed			
put on the new self in the likeness of God	24		

Dynamics:

1. We are moving toward an ultimate goal.

- Our progress is <u>incremental</u>. Walk 17
- We walk one of two separate <u>ways</u>.
 - The old self (your former manner of life) 22
 - The new self (has been created) 24

Apply: The new way of life is clearly different!

The Old Self	The New Self
Just as the Gentiles	In the likeness of God
In the futility of their mind	Learn Christ
Darkened in understanding	Heard Him
Ignorance that is in them	Taught in Himtruth in Jesus
Corruptedlusts of deceit	Renewedin righteousness & holiness
Hardness of their hearts	kindtender-hearted (32)
Calloussensuality	In lovenot (5:1-3)
Impurity with greediness	Lovesacrificenot greed

2. The course of our life path is determined by our <u>mind</u>.

mind, understanding, ignorance 18 learn.. (20) taught, truth... (21) mind (23) truth (24)

- Being truth-blind sets the course for how we walk.
 the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelieving 2 Cor. 4:4
- Because of <u>ignorance</u> many walk in the futility of their <u>mind</u>.
 You will keep on hearing, but will not understand... Matt. 13:13-15
 Ignorance: "..to exercise the mind..." Prefix a

3. The course of our life path is guided by our heart.

Hardness of their heart...having become callous...given to sensuality 18-19

- Our <u>heart</u> guides our <u>mind</u> that guides our <u>life</u>.
 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the <u>wellspring</u> of life.
 Prov. 4:23
- Having a <u>callous</u> heart surrenders our life to <u>sensuality</u>.
 Futile speculations... heart darkened... God gave them over Rom. 1:24

Challenge: Signs tell where I'm going - they don't take me.

1. Read the Signs:

- **Head**: Our thoughts, beliefs, reasoning
- **Heart**: Our values, choices, dreams
- **Hands**: Our habits, words, offerings

I'm renewed in the life of God or excluded from the life of God.

2. Receive new life from inside-out! Ezekiel 11:18-21 & 36:26-27

- A mind change, changes our destiny. Repent!
- A heart change, changes our course. Believe!
- A lifestyle change requires our effort. Walk!
 - o It takes time.
 - It can be <u>difficult</u>.
 - o It's worth it!