

# A Change of Heart

## Ephesians 4:17-32

Change is an \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_!  
Instantly 2 Cor. 5:17      Incrementally 2 Cor. 3:18

### Catalysts:

1. **God's \_\_\_\_\_: We cooperate with the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Do not give the devil an opp. (27) do not grieve the Spirit of God 4:30*

*Strengthened in power through His Spirit in the inner man 3:16-17*

a. **Our inner life is a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and battle \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Luke 11:25ff.; 2 Corinthians 10:3-7*

b. **Our inner man will align with spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Luke 11:25ff; Romans 6:16 (in context) You **are** slaves... **either** of... **or** of...*

c. **Our motivation is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Do not grieve the Spirit of God!*

*The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ controls us. 2 Corinthians 5:14*

2. **Positive \_\_\_\_\_: We put off by \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Lay aside the old self...and put on the new self... 22-24*

a. **Our new \_\_\_\_\_ displaces the old \_\_\_\_\_.**

**There is no spiritual vacuum.**

*Our old life cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ – it must be \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Take up his \_\_\_\_\_ **daily** and follow me... \_\_\_\_\_ his life =*

*\_\_\_\_\_ it. Lk. 9:23f.*

*I am \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ ..it's no longer I who live, but Christ...*

*Gal. 2:20 cf. 5:16ff.*

b. **Our new life \_\_\_\_\_ displace old life \_\_\_\_\_.**

**There is no moral vacuum.**

*We can't " \_\_\_\_\_ " – we must " \_\_\_\_\_ !"*

*Do not grieve the Spirit of God*

*Do not give the devil an opportunity*

*Speak truth...*

*to*

*lay aside falsehood*

*Be angry*

*to*

*not let the sun go down on your anger*

*Labor...share*

*to*

*steal no longer*

*Speak edification*

*to*

*let no unwholesome word out*

*Be kind*

*to*

*put away all bitterness, wrath, anger*

*Love, as Christ*

*to*

*(put away) immorality, impurity, greed*

**Challenge: Do I want to \_\_\_\_\_ myself or let God \_\_\_\_\_ me?**

## Discussion Guide: *A Change of Heart* Ephesians 4:17-32

1. **In terms of our heart-transformation, “change is an event AND a process!”**  
**Instantly** 2 Cor. 5:17 *Anyone in Christ is new... old things **have** passed...*  
**Incrementally** 2 Cor. 3:18 *We...are being transformed...*
  - In your own personal experience of salvation, what parts of your life were obviously *brand new* when God’s Spirit moved in? What parts are changing more slowly? Does that discourage or encourage you?
  - How does that influence the way we relate to these people?
    - Unbelievers
    - New Believers
    - Pretend *Christians* (Can you tell?)
  
2. **Our heart is a spiritual dwelling place and a spiritual war zone.**
  - Find at least 3 Bible references to support that.  
Any in Ephesians?
  - When you hear the terms “spiritual warfare” what comes to your mind?
  - According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-7 what is the nature of spiritual war? So, what difference does that make for your daily life? For how we, as a church, try to help people? For the writers of self-help and positive thinking books?
  - Agree or Disagree: *Everyone is a slave – either of God or Satan!*  
How does the point of Jesus parable in Luke 11:24 ff. fit in?  
Note Jesus statement right before this story, in Luke 11:23. What’s the point and how does that fit with his statement in Luke 9:50.  
Hint: Context matters!
  
3. **Our motivation for change is relationship, not rules.**
  - How does that change the way we do church and the Christian life?
  - Are the ways that we may unintentionally communicate something different? As individuals or as a corporate ministry?
  - How does that impact the way we help our children grow and change?
  
4. **How’d you explain the truth that new Life in Christ is a whole new life to:**
  - Someone involved with a “works righteousness” cult?
  - A “so-called brother” living immorally? (1 Cor. 5:11)
  - Someone saying: “I can’t forgive myself for what I did in the past.”
  
5. **You’re the counselor. How will you use the principle of “displacement” to help an “addict?” A neurotic? A slave of money? A slave of lust?**

**Prayer Target: New lives reflecting “Christ at home in your hearts.”**

## A Change of Heart

### Ephesians 4:17-32

#### Change is an event and a process!

**Instantly** 2 Cor. 5:17 *Anyone in Christ is new... old things have passed away*

**Incrementally** 2 Cor. 3:18 *We all...are being transformed into the same image...*

*"We shall all be morphed!"*

- Head: *Learn Christ, heard, been taught, truth, renewed in...your mind*
- Heart: *Tenderhearted, walk in love,*
- Hands: *Speak truth, labor with his hands, share, edification*

#### Catalysts:

#### 2. God's Spirit: We cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

*Do not give the devil an opp. (27) do not grieve the Spirit of God 4:30*

*Strengthened in power through His Spirit in the inner man 3:16-17*

##### c. Our inner life is a spiritual habitat and battle zone.

*Luke 11:25ff.; 2 Corinthians 10:3-7*

##### d. Our inner man will align with spiritual authorities (influences).

*Luke 11:25ff; Romans 6:16 (in context) You are slaves... either of... or of...*

##### e. Our motivation is relationship, not rules.

*Do not grieve the Spirit of God!*

*The love of Christ controls us. 2 Corinthians 5:14*

#### 3. Positive Displacement: We put off by putting on.

*Lay aside the old self...and put on the new self... 22-24*

##### a. Our new life displaces the old life.

**There is no spiritual vacuum.**

*Our old life cannot be reformed – it must be replaced.*

*Take up his cross daily and follow me...save his life = lose it. Lk. 9:23f.*

*I am crucified with Christ...it's no longer I who live, but Christ... Gal. 2:20 cf. 5:16ff.*

##### b. Our new life pursuits displace old life obsessions.

**There is no moral vacuum.**

*We can't "don't" – we must "do!"*

*Do not grieve the Spirit of God*

*Do not give the devil an opportunity*

*Speak truth...*

*to*

*lay aside falsehood*

*Be angry*

*to*

*not let the sun go down on your anger*

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**Challenge: Do I want to justify myself or let God save me?**