



Week of May 16, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. If you developed some guardrails from last week's discussion, how have you put them into practice this week?
2. Paul said, "Every mess you don't clean up, catches up with you." Would you agree with this statement? How have you seen that lived out in your life or someone close to you?
3. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. How does the option that we can put off the old self and God creates a new self bring you hope?
4. Read Ephesians 5:1-2. What do we learn of the character of God from these verses? As you think about this challenge, would you consider it a difficult one to live out? Why or why not?
5. Grace is the unexpected, unearned, and undeserved favor of God. Have you accepted God's grace for salvation? If you have, share your faith story with the group.

6. Paul talked about the three steps of 1) acknowledge you made a mess, 2) renew your mind, and 3) put on the new self. What mess are you currently in and where are you in these steps? How can this group help or encourage you?
7. For your prayer time, consider breaking into groups of 2-3 and spend time praying for each other. This may be a focus of the prayer, "God, show me how to accept your grace for this mess in my life."

Moving Forward

Not every mess we experience is because of our own sin. But owning our part is what God asks of us. Embrace God's grace for your messes. When you have experienced His grace, then you can have His power to address your part of the mess.

Ephesians 4:22-5:4

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin" d : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

¹Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.