



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We
Celebrate Only Jesus

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024
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"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Pastoral Pondering

WALK IN THE SON

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul goes to great lengths to show that believing Gentiles are fellow heirs and members of the body of Christ (Ephesians 3:6). While they had formerly been Gentiles in the flesh, separated from God, now through the blood of Jesus they have been reconciled to Him (Ephesians 2:12-13). Paul uses a fair amount of ink in the latter portion of this letter instructing them on how to live for and in Christ.

"Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" ~Ephesians 4:17-24.

The apostle begins the passage above by exhorting them not to walk as the Gentiles do (and as they did while unbelieving Gentiles). He describes the thoughts and inclination of the unbelieving Gentile minds as useless, futile because their minds were darkened in understanding. Verses 19-22 gives us a vivid description of the corruption that produces hardness of the heart. Paul tells us that it is this hardness of heart that causes the futility of mind, ignorance, and alienation from the life of God.

He expresses a similar thought in Romans 8:6-7 regarding the mind: *"For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot."*

Thankfully the intense light of the Gospel illumines darkened minds and softens hard hearts that we might see Christ. Paul goes on in Ephesians 4:22-24 to describe that those who come to Jesus are renewed in the spirit of their minds (see also Romans 12:2), and they are to put away the old self and put on the new self. This new self is *"created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."* What a staggering gift we have been given! No longer walking in sin but rather we walk in the light of the glory of Christ!

"Walk" seems to be one of Paul's favorite words to use in his letters. Since the Ephesians weren't to walk as the Gentiles, we should look at how Christ followers were

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Pastoral Pondering

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instructed to walk.

In love- *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” ~Ephesians 5:1-2*

In wisdom- *“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” ~Ephesians 5:15-17*

In a worthy manner- *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” ~Ephesians 4:1*

In the good works prepared for us- *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” Ephesians 2:10*

As children of light- *“for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” ~Ephesians 5:8*

Blessings, Brian Gates



welcome

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months, we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life, be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. Please join us for fellowship and a meal after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.



Did you know we have a Greeting Card Ministry? If you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration, please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com or call 651-373-1426.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Mon	Prayer Night/Barton's– 6:30 pm
Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Precept Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

June Memory Verse:

Deuteronomy 4:9 (ESV)

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to you children and your children's children..."

June Fellowship Tip:

Have you committed yourself to invest in the work of gospel ministry here at New Life and want to learn more about what it means to become a Partner? Take a moment and talk to one of the elders/pastors and they would be glad to begin that process with you.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

June 16 Meal Team 5 ~ Breakfast
June 23 Picnic ~ Dresser Park

Summer Schedule~meals only on 1st & 3rd Sundays
Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check Out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Happy Father's Day Blessings!

- **TRI-COUNTY Options for Women:** Today is the last day to bring in your Baby Bottles for the Options on 8 Fundraiser. Just place your filled bottles back in the basket at the Resource Center. Thank you!
 - **Preaching Guild:** Preaching Guild has been moved from this Sunday to next **Sunday, June 23rd at 6:30pm.**
 - **Picnic in the Park: Next Sunday, (June 23)** after service we will be having a picnic in the park! The elders will be firing up the grill at Dresser Park and providing the lunch. So plan to be **eating outside. Bring a picnic blanket or lawn chairs and yard games too!**
 - **Upcoming Showers:** Reminder for New Life ladies:
Bridal shower for Carley Peikert engaged to Ben Wilson, next **Sunday, June 23rd at 2pm** at the New Life Building Carley and Ben's Registry information can be found at:
<https://www.theknot.com/us/benjamin-wilson-and-carly-peikert-jul-2024/registry>
Baby shower for Margo Steward married to Ben Steward, **Sunday, June 30th at 2pm** at the New Life Building. Margo and Ben's registry information can be found at:
https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/24N84Y9MUW79E?ref=br_search_v2_desktop_res_1
- If you have any questions, would like to help provide food or if you know of a mommy or bride to be within our church body please reach out to Kristin Stephan 651-235-1681 or kristin@kageinnovation.com
- **CEF:** This summer CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) is putting on a 5-day club at the New Life building Monday **July 15th through the 19th** meeting from **1:15pm-2:45pm** each day. It's set up for ages 5-12. Your free to bring/invite friends and neighbors too!
- If you are interested in volunteering to help with registering children upon arrival, praying with the students, and distributing snacks after club each day, just reach out to Carie Wright. These 5 days will be Jesus centered and full of Gospel truths, spread the word!
- **Housekeeping:** Just a friendly reminder for those who are the last person to exit the building at any given time: Please remember to arm the security system before exiting. Thank you. Jim Judkins, Building & Grounds

nlcc
resourcecenter

Are you looking for a good book to give as a gift or thinking of starting a bible study? Check out our resource center and ask the resource ministry team for some good suggestions. In addition to good books for both adults and children, there are also music CD's, DVD documentaries, bible concordance, systematic theology books, and much more. We have many choices, so be sure to take a look today after service.



Jesus

According to Samuel

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,
1 SAMUEL 26:1-25

SERMON NOTES: