

Ephesians 4:25-32 Put on the New Self

1. In the Christian Church it seems there are at times two different perspectives for how one grows as a follower of Jesus. For some it is – know the Christian rules and obey the rules – for others it is – you have the Spirit of God in you – let him work - as if it were a more passive process. Have you had any experience with these two perspectives? What are the strengths and pitfalls of each?

2. Look back at Ephesians 4:22-24. What is Paul’s principle for Christian growth? What is the goal? Is it active or passive? What is the means by which growth comes?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32

3. Paul now turns to 5 examples of this principle in action. Together go through each of them to discern what Paul is asking us specifically to put away and what we are to put on instead.
 - I. Vs. 25

 - II. Vs. 26-27

 - III. Vs. 28

IV. Vs 29 - 30

V. Vs. 31 - 32

4. Interspersed in these examples are invitations for us to think Christianity about behavior, to have the good news of Jesus shape how we interact with one another. Take a look at each of these moments – “we are members of one another” (25)– “do not grieve the holy Spirit”(30) – “forgive as God in Christ forgave you” (32) – and consider together how considering these realities – having our minds renewed by these realities will shape our behavior?

5. These commands are not given to individuals but to a community. Just as the old self was formed through community, relationships, experiences, families – so putting on the new self requires a community together to be putting of the old self and putting on the new self. What does this look like within the context of a community?

6. Many followers of Jesus are uncomfortable speaking about an active process of growth concerned that it undermines salvation by faith alone and not by works. In light of this passage how would you respond?