

**Mar 16/25 – Small Groups - Ephesians 4:22-32 “Cultivating the Beauty of a New Humanity”**

1. What are you feeling / thinking in light of the current news cycle? How do you believe we are invited to respond as followers of Jesus?
2. In the sermon Tim invited us to respond by living into the new humanity. When the scriptures speak of our coming to reflect a new humanity organic imagery is used. Seed cast upon soil (Luke 8:5-15); branch connected to vine (John 15); flourishing of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). What do we learn about growth into the new humanity from this organic imagery?

**Read Ephesians 4:22-32** In this passage Paul reflects on the beauty and bounty of a new humanity. Interspersed throughout are five key truths for creating an environment where this new humanity may be cultivated. We could call these the gardening practices of a new humanity.

3. Reflect on the five truths Tim mentioned and discuss how they cultivate a new humanity.
  - I. Born of a conscious choice – put off the old, put on the new (vs. 22-24)
  - II. Grows in the soil of truth telling community – we are members of one another (vs. 25)
  - III. Where we give no opportunity for the Devil (vs. 26)
  - IV. In right relationship with the Spirit – do not grieve him (vs. 30)
  - V. Soaked in the glory of the gospel – forgive as you have been forgiven (vs. 32)
4. Which do you think you'd like to press more into? Why?
5. Our words have creative power. What are some of the ways we could use our words to call out of one another the new humanity?
6. Be angry but do not sin. Why would Paul begin with the imperative – Be angry? How can we ensure that in our anger we sin not?
7. In a recent speech commenting on the crisis of our day the Canadian-born NYT columnist David Brooks said this: Culture changes when a creative minority find a more beautiful way to live and the rest of us copy. This is the story of the early church. Discuss as it relates to the new humanity described in our text – a beautiful way to live.