

Ephesians - Identity  
Change – Part 9  
09/25/2023

- Unavoidable defects
- Zero defect mentality

*Romans 3:23 (NIV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

- The truth is we're all defective.
- It is possible to see improvement.

*Eph. 4:17-27 (ESV) 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. 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. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! — assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Why is Change Hard?

A) **DEEPLY** Entrenched Defects.

- They've become ingrained in our lives over time.

B) **DEFECT** Driven Identity

- They may be something you do but they're not your identity.

C) **DECEPTIVE** Defect Payoff

D) **DIABOLICAL** Discouragement

- He wants you to stay stuck in your stuckness.
- Why even try?

How To Change:

1st) Change Requires New **THOUGHTS**.

*Eph. 4:17 (ESV) 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.*

- Change in your life requires new thinking.

*Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*

- You aren't what you think you are.
- But what you *think*, you are.
- The way you think determines the way you feel; and the way you feel determines the way you act.

*Eph. 4:23 (TLB) Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better.*

- You listen to God through the Bible.
- You talk to God through prayer.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do."*

2nd) Change Requires New **CHOICES**.

*Eph. 4:18 (ESV)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.*

*Eph. 4:24 (ESV) and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*2 Cor. 5:17 (TLB) When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!*

- Dreams are worthless unless you wake up and actually act on them.
- You're not going to change until you *choose* to change.
- You need God's help to change.
- You need God's help to make better choices.
- You ask for God's help to make better choices.
- You Will Never Leave Where You Are Until You Decide Where You Would Rather Be.
- You Cannot Correct What You Are Unwilling To Confront.

3rd) Change Requires New **TRUTH**.

*Eph. 4:20-21 (ESV) But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,*

- Personal change is found in the truth.

- You've got to know and face the truth.
- You've got to know and face the truth about yourself before you can change.
- You've got to know and face the truth about your relationships before you can change.
- It begins with a choice.
- I just don't want to fight this.
- A weariness of spirit.
- What You Fail To Master In You Life Will Eventually Master You.

*Dan. 10:17-19 (NIV) How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe." Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. "Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."*

*Dan. 7:25 (TLB) He will defy the Most High God and wear down the saints with persecution, and he will try to change all laws, morals, and customs.*