

Church in the City ⑨

INTRODUCTION | New Man

In today's scripture passage I want us to see how in Christ we are to have a different understanding of life. There is an often repeated line in scripture about “putting to death the old man and putting on the new”. A new heart and life has been prepared for us but that life is not for the vague future but for the here and now. First, who is the new man and what kind of life does he live? Secondly, as we think on the tendencies of our old life we are brought to more clearly see the problems of life, how easily it is to fall and the deep marks of sin. Thus, we must keep ourselves from sin which leads to death and destruction. Thirdly, I want to look at how we walk in newness of life, newness in word, newness in attitude and newness in action.

SCRIPTURE | Ephesian 4:17-32

17 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. 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

QUESTIONS |

- 1:(17-24) Here Paul contrasts the old person and the new person. Discuss these differences highlighted by Paul.
- 2: (17-19) Paul speaks very critically of the old man, why is that? This about the root problem and discuss
- 3: What is the motivation for living as the new man? Why should you stop living as the old man and walk in newness of life? (Ref John 14:6 and Oe Kenzaburo)
- 4: What is your identity as a new person? How does this encourage you ?
- 5: (25-31) What is the way of life for a new man in Christ ? The new person is compare in 3 ways (25,29) They speak in new ways, (26-27,30-31) They have new attitudes and (28,32) They have new actions. Discuss these differences.

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

6: In order for the new man to walk in Christ what challenges present themselves in your life? As scripture sheds light on these issues pray for one another.

REFERENCES |

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Oe Kenzaburou

Young people and children, I want you to become new people or at least want you're aim to be for newness. I imagine the new man to be a someone who brings true peace within this most difficult internal conflict between old and and new man. I see that Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified and died and became new through resurrection and living again and proclaimed throughout the world by his disciples is the most important image in this regard.

PRAYER |

• Lord God in Christ we have been made to walk in newness of life as new people. We praise you and rejoice in this abundance which has been given through Christ.

• We who have been made new "made able not to sin" are lead by the Holy Spirit but cannot do this perfectly. Do You have challenges and temptations ? confess them and repent in faith in the gospel.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Community group leaders training (7/3)

Lunchtime meetings (7/4 Akasaka, 7/5 Kasumigaseki, 7/6 Otemachi)

Barbecue (Tachikawa 7/ 8)

Sunday Worship service (7/ 9)

Community group leaders training (7/10)

Grace City Choir (7/10)

Lunchtime meetings (7/11 Kudanshita, 7/12 Marunouchi, 7/13 Otemachi)

Obento Project 7/15

Sunday Worship service (7/16)