The Nature Of Choice: Putting On A New Man

Daniel Baker · Ephesians 4:17–32

INTRODUCTION

- I call this the nature of choice. If you want to subtitle it's putting on the new man.
- We've all made the choice to put on Christ. And no matter what we are, no matter what we do, we always are Christians.

1 We Have Believed: The Gap Where We Choose

John 6:66–69

- Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.
- Between the stimulus and the response in the scientific world, there's nothing. When it comes to a person, there's a stimulus and there's this gap.
- God put that gap in people. He didn't give it to animals.
- We've made the choice to believe in you because we believe that you have the words of eternal life.

2 No Longer Walk as the Gentiles

Ephesians 4:17–19

- They could hear the word and just brush it aside. There are plenty of people like that today.
- That's a hard heart creeping in to a Christian. It doesn't just go to the person who we're teaching.
- This lack of faith in the heart is the root cause for their futility and their alienation from God.
- He said, come together and do this to remember me. We don't come together. We'll lose our faith.

3 Put Off the Old Self

Ephesians 4:22; Romans 6

- In Romans 6, we are told that when we are baptized, we rise to walk in a new life. The old man should stay in the water.
- This old man is your former life. And we're told in this passage that life is corrupted through deceitful desires.
- The devil doesn't necessarily want all of your heart. He's happy having just one piece. Because if he gets enough, he'll end up getting it all.
- So our former life and our new life are mutually exclusive. So you can't have both.

4 Put On the New Self by Renewing Your Mind

Ephesians 4:23–24

- How can we resist these desires? Well, that's to put on the new self. By the renewing of the spirit of your mind.
- If you can get your attitude in check, you can take care of 90% of those deceitful desires.
- Our attitude is what affects our decisions.
- We have the ability not to just push back when we're pushed. We have the ability to make that choice to take ten seconds before you react.

5 Falsehood Versus Truth, Anger Versus Patience

Ephesians 4:25–32

- He comes at us in little bitty ways. He wants a pinprick today that you don't notice.
- If we can work on our attitude and make the choice to live on this side, the side of truth, and being kind and tenderhearted and forgiving. The other things start to take care of themselves.
- And the more we do that, the good becomes the easy life. The new man starts to take over, and the old man stops to push as much.
- It's all about you deciding and making that choice.

6 Therefore, Be Imitators of God

Matthew 11:25–29

- Therefore, be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- So really, I'm not trying to imitate my father here. I'm trying to imitate my father in heaven.
- If we're going to be an imitator of him, we've got to know about it.
- Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.

THE CHALLENGE

We have an opportunity to make a choice. Jesus is calling. He says, Come.

MY NOTES