

HOW THE WORLD BEHAVES
Ephesians 4:17-24

INTRODUCTION

Next week : It's going to be the church's anniversary. I'm so excited about it. But as repeatedly shared with you that the danger of this celebration is that the church might be glorified or a person might be glorified. The reason why we celebrate and the reason why we want to invite our friends and loved ones is we want them to see and meet our Lord Jesus Christ whom we love so much.

That's the reason last week, I preached again on the first sermon I preached here as a church which is "First Love Must Never Die" from Revelations 2 about how our Lord commends the church of Ephesians but have lost their "first love."

Note : When you are in love with somebody, there is a difference on how you would think and act.

Illustration : President Bush (the senior one) was asked how did he know he was in love with Barbara Bush, he answered, "When she walks into the room, I can't breathe."

Question : Now would people see that you are in love with Christ? Will it be seen in how we think, in how we live?

Illustration : Tagyihawat they say is a sign of being in love.

Good advice : I heard this good advice from a pastor who says that if we are being tempted, you just say to the Lord, "Lord I love you more than I love sin."

**Ephesians 4: ¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

²⁰You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

REVIEW :

Two weeks ago : We talked about the Christian difference...

**Ephesians 4: ¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

We said that a Christian is seen differently by :

***I. WHO HE FOLLOWS**

tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord

Note : The appeal of Paul is based on what the Lord wants and not what He wants

Again : *¹⁷This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord (KJV)*

In short, Paul is saying that as Jesus is my witness, here is how he wants us to live.

***II. HOW HE LIVES**

you must no longer live as the Gentiles do

In short, Paul is saying that as Christians we should no longer live as Gentiles do.

We studied :

Etymology : Gentile “ethnos” a group of people with the same kind of thinking...in short, the world. But how would we know, Paul is talking about “the world”

1 Thessalonians 4: ³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body^f in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the **heathen, who do not know God;*

Note : That heathen there uses the same Greek word which is “ethnos”

***III. WHAT HE THINKS**

in the futility of their thinking.

In short, the one who loves and follows Christ thinks differently from how the world thinks.

Etymology : futility – vanity (KJV) “mataiotes” - devoid of truth and appropriateness; perversity – coming from “mataios” useless; of no purpose

Important : The world is boasting that they are already modern and they have figured things out for themselves how to improve their lives. But is the world today really better without God?

***Quote :**

- The world today has advanced in medicine by leaps and bounds then why is the world still afraid of H1N1, AIDS and even catching the common flu?
- The world today has a more sophisticated way of protecting itself with guns and surveillance cameras then why is the world still afraid that someone might snatch their kids while they're walking home from school or worried that your teenage daughter comes home late?
- The world today has the most modern gadgets to entertain themselves like Playstation, Wii, Xbox, more than 500 channels in cable, Home entertainment systems, Ipods, Laptops and computers then why is it that most of the status updates I see in Facebook is "I'm bored."

You know why is the world is still in misery?

Quote : Those psychiatrists who are not superficial have come to the conclusion that the vast neurotic misery of the world could be termed a neurosis of emptiness. Men cut themselves off from the root of their being, from God, and then life turns empty, inane, meaningless, without purpose. So when God goes, goal goes. When goal goes, meaning goes. When meaning goes, value goes, and life turns dead on our hands. – Carl Jung, the father of analytical psychology

In short, he is saying that the only thing that can answer the emptiness inside is God.

So, in order to fill this emptiness, we must know who God is and He has already revealed Himself to us through His Word, through the person of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, Carl Jung, even if his father was a pastor never found who God is because he was looking for it in all places but refused to accept the one and only God, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

After Paul wrote this

**Ephesians 4: ¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

He now describes how the world behaves.

***BUT**, before I share with you how the world behaves, let me tell you first why the world thinks and acts they way it does right now.

¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Etymology : hardening "porosis" from "poroo" tough skin "callous"

**Matthew 13 : ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.*

Principle of Communication : Fifty percent is how it has been delivered but the other fifty percent is how it was received.

The right attitude in a worship service : I want to hear from God today.

Illustration : If Prime Minister Harper or just even the mayor of Brampton would say, I would go to your church because I have a very important message to you, I bet, that you will come and listen what he or she has to say.

Personally : I appreciate you coming into church but sometimes we come here for the wrong reasons. Sometimes we come here because we have to or for another reason. But one of the reasons, we go to church is because we want to hear what God wants to say because everything He says is important. Right now, in the passage we are studying, this is not necessary “tickling to the ears” but very important

**2 Timothy 4 : ¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.³For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

*(show outline)

How the world behaves :

***I. THEY IGNORE THE TRUTH**

, in the futility of their thinking.¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding...because of the ignorance that is in them.*

Etymology : darkened “skotizo” to be covered with darkness

Illustration : From the 5th level of the basement and there was a blackout, I made this foolish thing of getting out of the car so kakapa-kapa ako. Just like the world, kakapa-kapa naman talaga on spiritual things.

Example : Ask them what will happen if they die and they will give you different answers. Ask them also if they are going to heaven when they die and they will give

you unsure answers. As Christians, we know where we are going because we are following THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

Illustration : Yesterday, we helped Butch put flooring in his house. Exact measurements are critical in putting these floorings. What if we don't use any tape measures (standard – truth means standard)? What will happen to the flooring? What if we use the tape measure and know the exact inch and still refuse to follow it? No wonder, ang gulo ng buhay ng mga taong hindi sumusunod sa Panginoon.

Remember : It's not only good to know the truth but to do what it commands

Question : What is the best Bible translation? KJV,NIV, NLT

Answer : It's the doer's translation (according to Dr. Mcgee)

**James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

Etymology : ignorance “agnoeo” lack of knowledge of divine things

Note : This is where we get the word “agnostic” – people who believe in the existence God but says that God cannot be known. “Atheists” are people who doesn't believe in the existence of God.

Question : What other ways do we show we ignore the truth?

Answer : It is when we choose to live in darkness

Example : When we rationalize our behaviour when the word of God is already clear in His commands on what we need to do.

Question : Why are they darkened or ignorant?

2 Corinthians 4: 4The **god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***

Warning : It is totally demonic “god of this age” these TV shows, don't let your children watch it like “The Secret Life of An American Teenager”, “Jersey Shore” and etc. When I say “demonic”, it doesn't mean there are devils there or anything but those shows are totally opposed to the ideals of God. No wonder, the youth nowadays have a warped view on love and sex. Why? Because they get their views about love and sex from these shows instead of the Word of God.

Important : We teach the kids about everything but when it comes to love and sex, the Christian parent loses his/her child by default. Why? We refuse to talk about the Biblical view of love and sex. If we don't teach our kids about it, guess who's teaching them....these shows on TV who is controlled by the god of this age or from their peers who is as ignorant as them when it comes to these things.

***II. THEY ISOLATE THEMSELVES FROM GOD**

and separated from the life of God

Etymology : separated “alienated KJV “apalotri-a-o” shut out from fellowship or intimacy

In short, they live life as if God is not there.

Question : Why is that so????

Important : Christian preaching today emphasizes about God’s love and mercy and grace. There’s nothing wrong with that and in fact, it’s even good. But the problem is, most of the time, for the fear of being called old-fashioned, preachers don’t preach regarding “fearing” God.

Personally, everyday, these are the three things I pray for my children. 1. That they may know God. 2. That they may love God 3. That they may have a holy fear of God...

Why no. 3

Proverbs 1: ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline

Proverbs 9: ¹⁰ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Honestly, what do we most need in our lives and what do we wish deep in our hearts for our children? That we or our children would make the right choices - wisdom

Then let’s teach them the fear of the Lord.

Let’s teach them that even if we live as if God is separated from us, He is always there.

***III. THEY INDULGE IN SENSUALITY**

¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Etymology : sensuality “aselge-i-a”

***Different meanings** :

- Unbridled lust – pornography, sexual immorality (pre-marital and extra-marital) and etc

- Excess – e.g. Hedonism of roman times, they will vomit themselves out so they can eat more
- Licentiousness - living in a way that now we are under God’s grace, we can already commit sin
- Lasciviousness or lewdness - “malaswa”, on how they dress and how they act or speak
- Wantonness – Without regard for what is right
- Outrageousness – giving in always to their temper “some say that I raise my temper but it subsides quickly...but so is a nuclear bomb”
- Shamelessness - “wala nang hiya”
- Insolence – contemptuously rude or rude behaviour or speech

In short : it’s living a life saying to God., “Leave me alone. I’m going to live the way I want to live.”

Romans 1: ²⁴Therefore **God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

*²⁶Because of this, **God gave them over** to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

**with a continual lust for more*

Example : Why do people get more and more addicted to drugs? Because the first high is good but as they use it, they become insensitive to the first high so they use more because they want to have that same feeling. “Hindi na tinatamaan” is our term in Tagalog.

Another example : Gambling? Why do people lose their homes or their entire life savings on these?....continual lust for more “greed”

CONCLUSION :

Look at this :

¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity

Etymology : sensitivity “apalgeo” to cease to feel pain or grief.

Illustration : Congenital insensitivity to pain with anhidrosis (CIPA) is an extremely rare inherited disorder of the nervous system which prevents the sensation of pain, heat, and cold — or *any* real nerve-related sensations (including the feeling to need to urinate). The problem with this disease is they are always open to danger and broken bones. They don't know that their hand is being burned already because they don't feel pain. They are continuously being embarrassed in front of friends because they just urinate and they don't feel it.

Danger of spiritual CIPA : Since they are insensitive to God's pleading, they are exposing themselves to constant danger or shame, not only in this world but more importantly into the world to come where their bodies and spirits will feel the torment of the fires of hell.

¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity

This is how the world lives....

S.G.D.