

Everything *is* **DIFFERENT**

WK 4 January 28, 2024

Reflect

Introduction

Everything is different when you decide to follow Jesus. In Christ, you have a new identity that transforms your life. Together, we're walking through the book of Ephesians unpacking what this means and its impact on our lives today. In week four, Pastor John taught us about how our lives can and should be different with Jesus.

Discussion

1. Pastor John shared that one of the most damaging things to God's work in the world is people who claim to know Jesus but look and act nothing like him. Without naming anyone specifically, have you ever experienced or been impacted by people living this way?
2. **Revisit and read Ephesians 4:1-6.** Paul calls us to live a life worthy of the calling we've received (Ephesians 1:4-7, 1:13-14, 2:7, 3:10-11). God has given us an enormously generous calling through his grace and love. What kind of life do you think represents this to the world?
3. Pastor John shared, "There is no room to be saved by Christ and not be changed by Christ. You cannot detach your belief from your behavior." If you were to reflect on your behavior these days, what might it say about your belief in Jesus' transformational power?
4. Jesus doesn't command obedience because he wants to control you. Jesus offers a better way to live – a freer way to live. Obedience to Jesus and his way, as developed by belief in his love for you, creates more freedom, not less. How does this truth land with you? Do you often wrestle with obedience to Jesus as "rule following" vs. freedom? Share your experience with your group.
5. **Revisit and read Ephesians 4:22-24.** Real change starts from the inside and works to the outside. It's not about just doubling down and trying harder - Jesus is the one who does this inside work. Where do you need God's help to put off your old self put on your new self?

Application

- **Keep reading.** Join us in reading through Ephesians over the course of this series! A daily devotional through this book of the Bible is available on the [Bible App](#).
- **Give attention to Jesus.** It's a deliberate decision by you to place Jesus at the forefront of your world every day and every moment. Take time to recenter and remember him throughout your day.
- **Pay attention to what God's up to in and around you.** God is always up to something, but it's easy for us to miss it. Slow down, pray, and keep an eye out for nudges from the Holy Spirit in and around you.
- **Bring attention to God in your Little Iowa.** Don't be afraid to talk about what God's up to in your life, whether difficult or encouraging. Your authentic experiences help you be real with God and others while painting a picture that you don't have to have it all figured out to follow Jesus.