



### **YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW**

Has there been a time in your life when you needed to change your ways because of your association with something or someone?

### **LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD**

The first three chapters of this letter laid a foundation of God's work to bless His people and bring about oneness, one new person out of the many backgrounds. In this chapter, Paul is unpacking what this means in our behavior. In short, because we are "in Christ" and in His family, we need to change our ways.

Read Ephesians 4:17-32 and consider these questions. (Note: It will enrich our time together if we have all studied the passage before we meet.)

Paul begins this passage with an emphatic exhortation: "You must no longer walk (live) as the Gentiles do." Why is that? What is wrong with the way they live? (17-19)

On what does Paul base this call to a new way to live? What is the model for how we are to live? Why this? (20-21)

According to verses 22-24, God is calling those who are in Christ to make a big shift in their lifestyle. What major changes are needed?

Paul then lists both negative and positive ways that need to happen in our relationships. What are the specific ways?

## **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

In the two central commands of this chapter, Paul wrote, “I urge you” and “I insist on it in the Lord” (4:1 and 4:17) which are about how we “walk” (live out) our life in Christ. These are about behavior, relationships and other changes that need to take place in our daily lives. Is this like the law of the Old Testament? How is this supposed to happen?

The new standard of behavior is to be like Jesus Christ. What helps you become like Him in these ways? How can we best help each other to be the new person in Christ?

Paul specifically lists our relational and ethical behavior. In light of the themes in the early chapters, why are these listed here?

Which of the changes Paul listed is easier or more difficult for you to change?

## **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

This entire passage is aimed at becoming like Jesus in our minds, speech, and behavior. Most of us cannot change everything at once. Ask God if there is a specific application of Christ-like living that He would help you and God’s family.

## **PLEASE PRAY**

- Please pray for our global partners including Youssef and Haley Jouni who are desiring to return to Lebanon as soon as they can complete raising support
- Please pray for our vision and mission to help people to follow Jesus as disciples
- Please pray for our small group shepherds as they serve as leaders in community life