Sermon Notes – November 24, 2019

Walking in Obedience:   
How Do We Live the Life God Would Have for Us?  
Eph. 4:17-32

Why do we obey?

* Fear – Reward - Respect/Love - Obligation/Loyalty - Nature

What is the cause of disobedience? (vs. 17-19)

* Futile thinking – the rational process is distorted and inadequate
* Hard-hearted – resisting the instruction of God
* Ignorance – hard-heartedness leads to a lack of understanding
* Separated from the life of God - by deliberate willful ignorance
* Darkened understanding – impossible to see in the dark
* Loss of moral sensitivity – can’t tell right from wrong

This downward spiral leads to one giving oneself over to sensuality and every kind of impurity.

* Never satisfied with a constant lust for more

The way of Christ is different.

* Christians are to have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16)
* We are to learn Christ – to have union with Him through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
* Discipleship involves teaching (Matt. 28:20)
* Put off and put on – Put off the old self, corrupted by deceitful desires and put on the new self, created to be like God, righteous and holy
* How? It starts in the mind (Rm. 12:2)

How then shall we live?

* Put off all dishonesty – Put on truth speaking
* Put off sin caused by anger – Put on the practice of keeping short accounts
* Put off stealing – Put on work
* Put off unwholesome talk – Put on helpful talk
* Do not grieve the Holy Spirit
* Put off bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, malice – Put on kindness, compassion, forgiveness

Be made new in the attitude of your mind.

* Obedience without a new mind leads to legalism, frustration and failure
* Allow the Holy Spirit to renew your mind – to teach you to know Christ
* Practice spiritual disciplines, both individually and corporately – prayer, bible study, fasting, fellowship with believers, service

Put on the New Self, Created to be Like God in True Righteousness and Holiness.