

Learning Jesus

Ephesians 4:17-24

You will never know, love, or become like Christ outside of a real active commitment to the church of Jesus Christ.

Unity and maturity happen when we realize the often slow and intermittent progress of other Christians in their faith is God's way of providing each of us an opportunity to grow in our likeness in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. **Step One: Reject the Way You Formerly Responded to Sin. Ephesians 4:17-19**

"Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do in the futility of their minds."

Ephesians 4:17

The Church is a great place to learn to lose deeply ingrained worldly ways of thinking about and responding to the weaknesses and sins of others.

"The reality is that if your eyes ever see, or your ears ever hear the sin, weakness, rebellion or failure of your children, it's never an imposition. It's never an interruption. It's never a hassle. It's always grace. God loves your children; he's put them in a family of faith, and in relentless grace he will reveal their need to you again and again so that you can be his tool of awareness, conviction, repentance, faith and change. And because in these moments he asks you to forsake your agenda for his, this opportunity of grace isn't just for your children, it's for you as well." Paul Tripp

"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one."

Psalms 14:1-5

- **Futility is being trapped in moral darkness.**

No Light from God: - "They are darkened in their understanding..."

No Life from God: "alienated from the life of God ..."

No Love for God: "because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the hardness of their heart."

- **Futility is Spiraling downward into moral depravity and eternal calamity.**

No pangs of conscience: "They have become callous..."

No pause in the pursuit of pleasure - "And given themselves to sensuality..."

No impurity that is left unexplored - "Greedy to practice every kind of impurity."

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Proverbs 14:12

II. Step Two: Remember and Reinforce What You have Learned of Jesus.Ephesians 4:20-21

"But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus," **Ephesians 4:20-21**

"His language is, to say the least, unusual. How do we learn a person... Becoming a Christian involves more than learning about Christ. It is learning Christ in the sense we have come to know him. In learning about Him, we come to trust and love Him. To live as the Gentiles do is to have learned nothing. It is to repudiate Christ!"

Sinclair Ferguson

"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."

Ephesians 5:1-2

III. Step Three: Replace the Old with the New. Ephesians 4:22-24

"... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-24

- **Reject:** Learning Christ is learning to "put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and corrupt through deceitful desires."

"So you also must consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Romans 6:11

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

Galatians 2:20

- **Renew:** Learning Christ means "to be renewed in the spirit of your minds..."

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Romans 12:1,2

Instead of ruminating on the wrongs of others, try meditating on God's Word.

“How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.”
Psalm 119:9-11

- **Replace – Learning Christ means “to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”**

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing... By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me so I have loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.”

John 15:4-10