

Read Ephesians 4:17-32

3. What characterizes the heart of the Gentile (pagan) mindset?
4. Review the progression of sin from the message. Can you give an example? Have you seen this play out in your life?
5. How does sin make us slaves?
6. What's the difference between "freedom from" and "freedom to?"
7. How are emotions the windows to our soul? Give an example?
8. In the message, Kory said, "Spiritual (and emotional) maturity are when we can step back from our emotions and first ask, "Is the problem ME?" Do you agree? Why or why not? Can you think of an example?"
9. What happens if we can't step back from our emotions (particularly anger)? How does that develop a hard heart?
10. What are some ways we can become oriented toward others? Can you think of some practical disciplines?
11. Are there any ways you've been personally convicted in this area of how you live, either within or outside the church as a result of this passage/message?
12. What changes will you make to develop a softer heart?



"Live Life"

Sermon Notes and Takehome

July 3rd, 2011

The vision of Waite Park Church is the vision of the Kingdom. We believe at the heart of the Kingdom of God is Life—capital "L." So many people think that when someone finds "religion," they limit themselves and make their world smaller. But we believe Jesus when He says, "I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." (John 10:10 MSG) Our vision is that we are a church full of people who find Life, share Life, and give Life.

Live Life.

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." —Ephesians 4:1-2

- We see a growing network of churches that serve as life centers of their neighborhood.
- We see a praying church that continually sees God work in ways we can't explain or take credit for.
- We see people engaged in authentic, intentional relationships where people are encouraged and directed toward Christ-honoring lives.

Sermon Notes:

Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-32

A _____ was anyone who wasn't a Jew.

- Pagan religion had little to do with _____.
- The only task of religion was to _____ the gods.

The progression of sin:

1. We become _____.
2. We start to interpret sin as _____.
 - _____ tells us something is wrong.
 - Real freedom is "freedom _____..."
3. We become _____.
 - We lose our sensitivity to _____.

Hard hearts keep us from experiencing pain, but they also prevent us from experiencing _____.

Developing soft hearts:

1. Live _____ (vs 25)
 - " _____ " in love (vs 15)

_____ damages the church

- It _____ people.
- It stunts our _____.
- We can't _____ or be _____.

2. Deal appropriately with _____. (vs 26)
 - Emotions are the window to our _____.
 - They tell us to _____.
 - To handle it appropriately, we must *first* ask, "Is the problem with _____?"
3. Become oriented toward _____. (vs 28-29)
 - Our _____ should be for the benefit of others.
 - _____ is a compliment or complaint in disguise.

My responsibility is to _____.

Our responsibility is to _____.

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. What are the things that characterize a "loving church?"
2. What do you think are some common misconceptions of a "loving church?"