

MAKING HARD CHANGES

Ephesians 4:11-27 • September 11, 2022

Dr. Scott Koenigsaecker, Sequim Community Church

INTRODUCTION:

A. Building one's inner character is a process.

- It is true we have attitudes and behaviors that need changing.

And the Lord — who is the Spirit — make us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.

— 2 Corinthians 3:18

C. Why is "inside change" so hard for us?

I. HOW THE SPIRIT MAKES INNER CHANGE HAPPEN

A. Real change begins with better thinking.

Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitude.

— Ephesians 4:23

Live no longer as the Gentiles (the ungodly) do, for they are hopelessly confused.

Their minds (thinking) are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against Him. They have (feel) no shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

— Ephesians 4:17-19

Do not conform to the values and opinions of this world. Instead let God transform you by teaching you the right and true way to think.

— Romans 12:2

B. God's truth causes transformation.

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching (or thought). We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the Church.

— Ephesians 4:14-15

C. Change often requires cleaning the house of our mind and hearts.

...throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception (lies).

— Ephesians 4:22

- Identify it, confess it, release it and move forward.

D. We can all use some help.

...stop telling lies (to yourself). Let us tell our (small group) neighbors the truth, for we are all part of the same body (church).

— Ephesians 4:25

- SCC Small Group relational basics:

1. What is said in the groups stays in the group!
2. Don't minimize others' pain
3. Don't try to "fix" them or it. Just listen!
4. Focus on your own change.

E. It is a faith experience.

This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

— Ephesians 4:13

- Character completion in Christ happens when we die and go to heaven.

CONCLUSION: