



# Sermon Discussion Guide

modernfamily  
the Gospel of the Church


## “A New You”

Ephesians 4:17-24

Rev. Ray Cortese, October 25 & 26, 2014

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Ephesians 4:17-24. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 What has been your reaction to the MORE halftime?  
or  
What are some ways in which we, as Christians, are called to be different from the culture around us? Why is an increase in rules ultimately ineffective for this task?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### A NEW YOU: PUTTING OFF THE OLD

- 3 How does the hardness of the human heart exhibit itself in the life of an unbeliever? Why would we say there is really no such thing as an atheist?

- 4 What are some examples of “futile” or meaningless things which human beings crave? How do these insatiable, internal desires point to the Creator?
- 5 How is God’s letting people do whatever they want a form of his judgment? Explain what Ray meant when he said, “There is freedom within the boundaries of our design. Doing whatever *we* want is actually slavery.” Have you found this to be true in your life?

#### A NEW YOU: LEARNING CHRIST

- 6 Jesus is the source of all truth. How does our culture view truth? What happens when you lose the ability to say something is absolutely true?
- 7 Accepting Jesus means accepting his authority. How would some people complete the following sentence?

“I’m a Christian, but I don’t believe in \_\_\_\_\_.”

- 8 Ray said, “The hardest heart can be warmed by love.” When was the last time your heart was warmed by the love of God?

#### A NEW YOU: PUTTING ON THE NEW

- 9 The right thing, done for the wrong reason, is the wrong thing. Explain. What are some examples of wrong motives for Christian obedience? What are some examples of good motives for Christian obedience?
- 10 When you become a Christian you get a whole new way of thinking. How has your outlook on life changed since your conversion?

### Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?