

☞ ✚

It's Complicated

OUR MATURING UNITY



1 Group

☞ ✚ ↻

It's Complicated

OUR MATURING UNITY



2 Message Timer Start: 35 Mins

☞ ✚

It's Complicated



3

☞ ✚

Hear O Israel!
The Lord is our God - the Lord alone.
Love the Lord your God -
with all your heart, with all your soul
and with all your might (*Deut. 6:4-5*)!
And love your neighbor as yourself (*Lev. 19:18, Matt. 22:39*). Amen.



4

☞ ✚

It's Complicated



5

☞ ✚

"A TEXT WITHOUT A CONTEXT IS A
PRETEXT FOR TROUBLE."



6

7

∞ †

It's Complicated



8

∞ †

"So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"

EPHESIANS 4: 17-24

It's Complicated

9

∞ †

It's Complicated



10

∞ †

"...YOU MUST NO LONGER LIVE AS THE GENTILES DO" (V. 17)



11

∞ †

It's Complicated



12

∞ †

JESUS ISN'T MERELY ADDED TO OUR OLD LIFE; THE OLD LIFE DIES AND HE BECOMES OUR NEW LIFE.



13

∞ †

It's Complicated



14

∞ †

THE GENTILE IS...

1. "Futile in their thinking" (v. 17).



☞ ☩

It's Complicated



15

⚠ ☞ ☩

"FUTILE"

μταιιότης
mataiotēs

"devoid of truth, perverse, and depraved"



16

☞ ☩

It's Complicated



17

☞ ☩

THE GENTILE IS...

1. "Futile in their thinking" (v. 17).
2. "...darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God" (v. 18).
- "...because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts" (v. 18).



18

☞ ☩

It's Complicated



19

☞ ☩

"Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed"

EPHESIANS 4: 19

It's Complicated

20

☞ ☩

It's Complicated



21

⚠ ☞ ☩

"Sensuality and [spirituality] are closely related within us. This close tie can be seen in the ancient religions which were extremely sexual in their orientation. There is an obvious spiritual hunger within humankind, but since it is so closely related to our sexual drive, the two desires become confused. By observation alone, it appears that the more godless a society becomes, the more sexually active and perverse the people grow. This is an act of compensation, attempting to pacify the inner spiritual needs with a sexual substitute. Since sexuality fails to meet the spiritual need, we are never satisfied, driving our desires to a more aggressive immorality" (Holmes).



22



It's Complicated



23



"That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus"

EPHESIANS 4: 20

It's Complicated



24



It's Complicated



25



"The Christian life...is a vital participation by faith and commitment to the very life of Christ. It is a literal entering into the life of Christ and the experiencing of the transforming power of His resurrection (Rom. 1:14-16; 8:11; 2 Cor. 5:17). The Christian life is more than an acceptance of the teachings of Christ or an attempted evaluation of His example. It is an acceptance by faith of His person into our lives...To [follow Jesus] is not simply to learn about Christ, but to learn Christ, to have heard him, to be taught in Him, even as the truth is in Jesus. Anything less than such a personal encounter with the living person of the Son of God will leave the soul devoid of the divine power to reject the old way of life and live the new life" (Carter).



26



It's Complicated



27



"So, if you want to know the Lord Jesus Christ, you must live with him. First he must himself speak to you, and afterwards you must abide in him. He must be the choice Companion of your morning hours, he must be with you throughout the day, and with him you must also close the night; and as often as you may wake during the night, you must say, 'When I awake, I am still with thee'" (Spurgeon).



28



"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"

EPHESIANS 4: 22-24

It's Complicated



29



It's Complicated



30