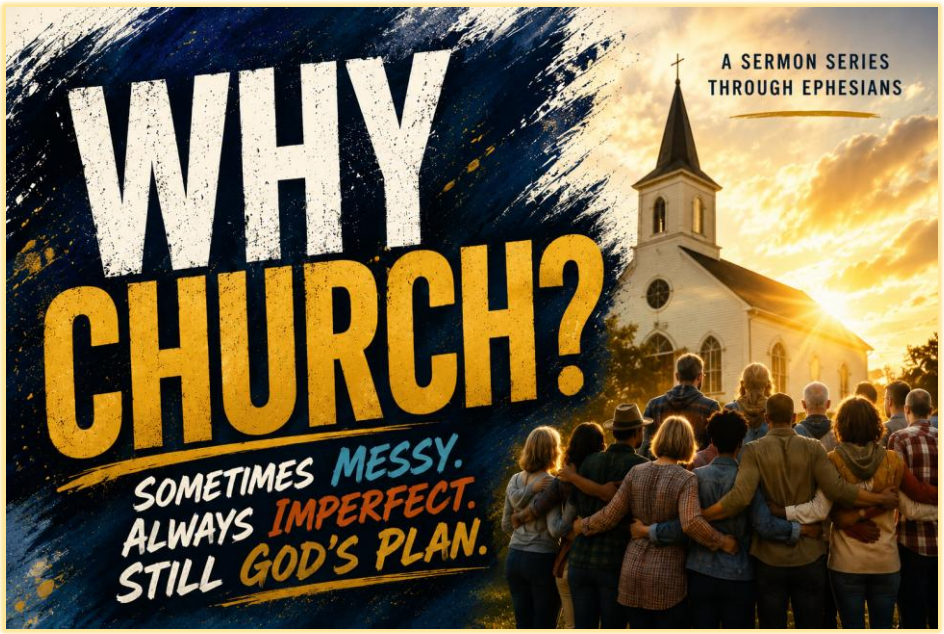


Becoming the Person You Want to Be
Ephesians 4:17-32

Give me a nod if you've ever heard someone say, "Church people are no different than anybody else." I think a fair response is: "Sometimes that's true. But what's sometimes true isn't always true—and it doesn't have to stay true."

Think about your life. Have you ever walked away from a conversation and thought, "Why did I say that?" Afterward, you thought, "That's

not the person I want to be." Have you ever had those "That's not who I want to be" moments? I have.

So, what kind of person do you want to be? Someone people can trust? Someone whose words strengthen others? Someone who can forgive— even when it's difficult? We want to be like Christ. But sometimes our reactions don't reflect that desire.

Ephesians 4 speaks to this. Paul describes our new life in Christ—and how that life changes our responses. Here is our hope, here and online:

In Christ, we can respond the way we want to, not the way we used to!

In Ephesians 4:17-32, Paul connects our new life in Christ to the moments when old habits beckon.

Notice how practical Paul gets. With each habit, he shows us what to put away and what to put into practice.

In Christ, we can respond the way we want to, not the way we used to!

He begins with lying (Verse 25).

He then moves to anger (Verses 26, 27, 31).

Having dealt with anger, he then deals with stealing (Verse 28).

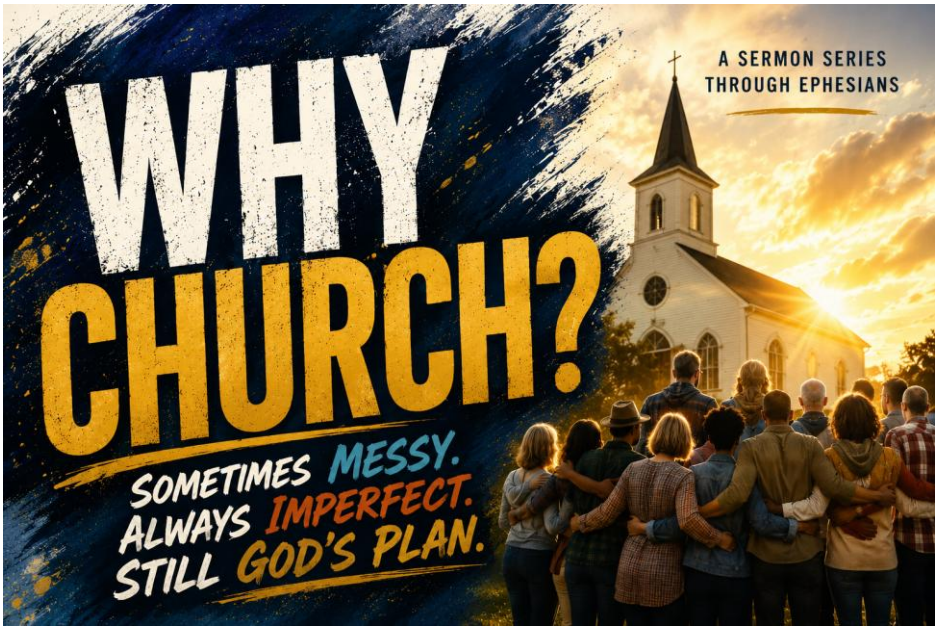
Corrupting talk is next on the list (Vs. 29-30).

And finally, bitterness (Verse 31).

Remember *that conversation you walked away from, thinking, "That's not the person I want to be"? There will be another conversation. Another chance to tell the truth, speak with kindness, or forgive. Think about what you wish you had done differently. And ask the Holy Spirit to help you practice that response this week.*

In Christ, we can respond the way we want to, not the way we used to!

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