

It's Your Choice

Gini Downing

August 22, 2021

It's Your Choice

Taught by [Gini Downing](#)

Series: Ephesians

8.22.21

Ephesians 4: 17-5:21

Paul uses behaviors that throughout history have been universally troublesome to invite us to look at what motivates us to wander. And rather than standing over us in pious judgment, Paul is clear in Romans 7:15 that he's right in the trenches with us – doing the things he has committed NOT to do, and NOT doing the things he knows he ought to do.

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

—C.S. Lewis

Old humanity:	What's Underneath:	New humanity: Antidote
Deceptive desires	I know best what I want	Righteousness and holiness of truth
Lying	I must defend / protect myself	Speaking the truth
Anger	Defend my rights at all costs	Forgiveness / letting offenses go
Stealing	Must provide for myself	Work so you can share with others
Rotten words	If I tear you down, it elevates me	Words that build one another up
Bitterness, anger, wrath, yelling, blasphemy	Don't tread on me	Kindness, compassion, grace, forgiveness

“What we designed for ourselves is not able to live in the truth. New creation is too real. Our reality is subhuman shadow. Part of subhumanity is isolation – a movement away from communal imbeddedness with each other.”

“And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history – money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery – the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

—C.S. Lewis

Takeaway:

- You matter.
- You are a gift, but not just for yourself – you didn’t make yourself, you can’t alter your number of days.
- You were not designed to grasp for your own aggrandizement or selfish pleasure.
- The highest and best purpose for you is to do what you were designed for. Worship God. Live in unity. Love.