

The old and the new (Ephesians 4:17-24)

Introduction

- What dictates our actions?
- What is Ephesians 4 - 6 all about?

i What they were (v17-19)

- How seriously is Paul speaking in v17?
- What does he insist on?
- What is the middle rung of Paul's "stepladder" all about in v17-18?
- In what three ways does Paul characterise non-Christian thinking?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)
- Paul does not mean that non-Christians can never be clever. What does he actually mean?
- Why is this the case (and this brings us to the bottom rung of the "stepladder")?
- What does this actually mean?
- Why is it disastrous to leave God out of the picture in your life?
- What is the end result of all this (and this brings us to the top rung of the "stepladder" in v19)?
- Are all non-Christians as bad as this?

- What does this mean to you if you are not a Christian?
- What does it teach Christians to do?

ii What they are (v20-24)

- What is the point of v20-21?
- What have Christians been taught to do in v22 and v24?
- Is Paul giving the Ephesians commandments here?
- What needs to happen, according to v23, for us to live out the implications of what we read in v22 and v24?
- Is this a continuous thing or a one-off thing?
- What are four ways in which you can promote the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work of renewing your mind?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)
 - iv)