

Conversation starters on Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Holiness is a key concept throughout the Bible, both of God's character and of what is required of God's people.

For example, see God's holiness in transcendence Psalm 139:1-18, and holiness in moral purity Habakkuk 1:13.

What events in the Bible help you to understand that God is holy?

Note the reactions of Moses (Exodus 3:1-12), Isaiah (Is 6:1) and John (Rev 1:12-18) before God.

How have you and do you respond to God's holiness?

Paul gives five examples of Christian behaviour in Eph 4:25-32. Most are given positively and negatively corresponding to the putting away of the former way of life and clothing ourselves with the new self (4:22-24).

What are they and what could you add to the list?

Is it really possible to live as Christ wants us to live?

In what ways can we be encouraged and strengthened to put on the new self and to keep it on?

A letter for a Cathedral Family Camp . . .

Dear . . .

Practically speaking, there is a huge connection between Christian mission and our character and ethics.

Theologically, we need to start with the attributes/character of God with respect to holiness and the call to be like him (i.e. Exodus 19, 34) which is modelled by Jesus and commanded in Ephesians 4-6 and 1 Peter 1:15-16. We are to do this as we walk in the Spirit (pneumati peripateite) Galatians 5:16, and do not grieve the Spirit in Ephesians 4:30. This is well stated as "keep in step with the Spirit" it has a marching in line/military connotation.

However, Ephesians 4-6 and Galatians 5 present the struggle in us all to live by the Spirit.

Application: we need to keep in step with the Spirit and also to be humble enough to let the Spirit be the prime mover within so we keep in touch with the Spirit.

All the best with it,

In what way(s) may this letter have encouraged you to put on the new self?