

Study 6

What is God's goal for the church?

Get Talking

1. "The church today exists in an age of unprecedented cultural wickedness." Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?
2. Do you think the church can make any impact on an age like ours? If so, how?

READ Ephesians 4:17-5:5

3. Having outlined what God has done for us in Christ (see Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:1-10, 19-22), how does Paul now explain what God expects of his saved people (4:17)?
4. What is the unbelieving world like, according to 4:17-19? What causes this?
5. How do we see evidence of this ungodliness in the culture around us?
6. By contrast, how does Paul describe the change that God has brought about in his people (4:20-21)? What has God done?

7. What do we still need to do (4:22-24)? What does this actually mean?

8. “Put on the new self” (4:24) is very different to “try harder” or “pull yourself together”. Why is this difference so important in understanding how the Christian faith works?

9. According to 4:25-5:4, what does it look like to “put on the new self” (4:24)? Spend some time thinking about each of the specific areas of sin in our culture that are mentioned. How do these seep into our own lives? How might we live differently?
 - a. Lies (4:25)

 - b. Anger (4:26-27)

 - c. Theft (4:28)

 - d. Unwholesome talk (4:29)

 - e. Discord & fighting (4:31-5:2)

 - f. Crudeness (5:3-4)

10. What is the warning Paul gives if our lives don’t show the kind of transformation he has described (5:5)?

11. Look back to the first two questions. Would you answer them differently now in the light of this passage?