

Ephesians: From Death to Life
Clothed in Christ
Ephesians 4:17-24

Chameleons are an amazing species of lizard that can adapt their appearance to match their surroundings in order to stay camouflaged and invisible to predators. It works the other way, too. Leopards are gifted in blending into their environments in order to avoid detection by their prey. Either way, believers often live in spiritual camouflage, imitating the world around us, blending in, so that we might avoid detection by those who we feel may criticize or hurt us.

1. The gospel has rescued us from a life of futility.

2. The gospel has informed us of Christ.

3. The gospel has transformed us in Christ.

4. The gospel is conforming us to Christ.

We have come to know Christ. We are new creations. We have minds that are being renewed. Because of the gospel, we are empowered to live out this identity in everyday life. Our power doesn't come from the culture or politics or secular theories. Our power comes from God. Only God can give us the new hearts, new desires, and new mindsets that we need in order to live for His glory and the glory of His kingdom. This power is what we get when we get Jesus.

Reflection

Take some time to look the following verses: Job 29:14; 40:10; Psalm 93:1; 104:1; 132:9; Romans 13:12, 14; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 3:9-10. As you read through these verses, consider how these "clothing" verses can encourage you and should motivate you in your walk with Christ. Where does the power for personal change come from? Does it come from trying harder? Is it natural or supernatural? Why is life apart from God futile? If you have not yet been converted, do you consider life to be futile? Where does your hope and meaning come from? If you are a believer and have been converted, what things (if any) in the world continue to draw you back into futility? What steps can you take or what truths can you focus on that will help you prevent the drift back into your old way of life?