

Sermon notes

Listen to this week's sermon (<http://www.midtowncolumbia.com/2009/index.cfm?sp=teaching>) and read **Ephesians 4:17-24**. After listening to the sermon what are some of the main things that stood out to you? What part of the sermon was most challenging? How would you summarize the sermon's main three points?

The Problem:

Vs. 17-19. In these three verses Paul describes life separated from God. This separation leads to an unsatisfied need in the human soul that leaves us craving satisfaction, purpose and meaning.

1. What does that look like in your life? What are things that you run to for a quick and temporary "satisfaction" other than fulfillment in Jesus? What do you crave to make your life seem worthwhile?

2. **The Problem is Internal.** It's foolish to put a piece of tape over the check engine light to make it go away. In the same way, changing our external behaviors doesn't fix our heart level sin. Sin starts internally. Sin originates in the heart.
 - a. Education and government were given as examples of attempts to solve what is wrong with humanity, but end up only treating the symptoms. What are other ways that we try to solve our problems, but are actually just treating the symptoms?

 - b. What are things in your life that you hide from others? What internal problems are you trying to cover up with external behavior change?

 - c. What external behavior sins do you use as criteria to judge people? In what ways do you find yourself wanting non-Christians to act better morally rather than wanting Jesus to change their hearts? (That's as foolish as putting a piece of tape over the check engine light. So, you should stop.)

A New Heart.

Go read **Ezekiel 36:24-27** and **Ephesians 4:20-24**. The prophesy in Ezekiel was fulfilled through Jesus. In Jesus, God wants to give me a new heart and His spirit. Eph. 4:20-24 shows us what it looks like to live with a new heart that has new desires and wants to take off the old me and put on the new me.

1. Read: **I John 1: 8-10**. Confession is part of the life of a Christian. What does confession look like in your life? In what ways is confession a built in, natural part of your life?
2. Read: **Romans 13:14**. Where are you living like the old you? Have you confessed it fully? In what ways do you need to stop “making provisions” for it?
3. What stirs your love and affections for Jesus? What steals from your love for Jesus? How can your community (lifegroup, friends who love Jesus) be more helpful to you as you put off the old you and put on the new you?

