

# Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

## The Glorious Church: The Glorious Mind of Christ (Ephesians 4:17–32)

### Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- Did you have a childhood hero? Tell us about that person.
- Describe a way your mind has changed about something over the years.
- Do you have any old stuff that you just can't throw away? Tell us about it.

### Dig

After reading [text] together, discuss these questions.

1. In verses 17–19 and 22 Paul describes the lives of the “Gentiles,” that is, the people who don't know God. What parts of this description stand out to you, as they fit or explain things you have observed or experienced?
2. In verses 20–24 Paul describes the new life in Christ. What parts of this description stand out to you? What do you see here as the focus of the new life?
3. In verses 25–27 and 29, much of the focus is on how we speak. How is “mind of Christ” speech different from “mind of the world” speech? Where does it come from? What does it aim for?
4. Verse 28 speaks about our handing of money and possessions. What does Paul tell us here about our work? About our wealth? Why do you think he focuses not just on honesty but on generosity as an expression of the mind of Christ?
5. Verse 30 mentions the Holy Spirit, and verse 32 mentions God the Father and Christ the Son, and verse. How are the three persons of the Trinity working together in these verses? What does that tell you about what the triune God is doing in our lives?

*Summary: Everything about the Christian life is determined by the truth of the gospel. In Christ God has shown us the fullness of his generous, gracious love. Through Christ's death and resurrection we have forgiveness we could never deserve. Through the Holy Spirit we have guidance and power to put the mind of Christ into action, living out God's love in very real, practical, everyday ways that transform what is most personal for us, including how we speak and how we spend.*

### Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- Are there elements of the old life that are “sticky” for you? Or like boomerangs? Share as you are comfortable.
- In what ways do you see the Spirit changing you to reflect the mind of Christ? What has the process been like? What is the outcome like so far?
- Is there a goal you feel called to pursue for your speech or your possessions? Share it as you are comfortable.

### Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

- What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?
- Let's pray for strength from the Spirit to put on Christ more thoroughly, especially in ways that feel very personal, like speech and finances.
- What parts of the old life can we thank God for having enabled us to "put off"? What parts do we especially need ongoing strength to put off? Let's pray in thanks for what he's done already and in hope and need for what he is still doing.