

# One- Before and After.

## Sermon Notes

January 9, 2022

**Extreme Makeover**- Homes, cars, people. [Images: Side by Side “Before and After” images for each]

### The most difficult makeover maybe one’s character. *Is it possible?*

- Self-centered vs. Others-centered.
- To serve rather than be served.
- Half full vs. half empty
- Independent vs. dependent
- Submissive vs. Rebellious

### Before we received a complete makeover in Christ. **Ephesians 4:17-19**

- Each of us has a default that is pre-disposed to futile thinking. (17)
  - *“Void of a useful aim or objective.”* BKC
  - A purposeless approach to life and thinking.
- Each of us were incapable of clear understanding. (18)
  - No awareness of a Divine standard.
  - Don’t get it when even told about it.
- Each of us lacked sensitivity to conviction of guilt. (19)
  - Hearts are hardened to guilt.
  - Leads to extreme behavior.
    - Extreme sensual exploration.
    - Extreme impurity of motives and actions.
    - Extreme consumeristic greed.

## After we were taught to live a life like Christ. **Ephesians 4:20-24**

*"<sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!— <sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,"* ESV

- What we have learned is Christ, both in word and deed. (20)
- Jesus is "THE TRUTH". (21)
  - Not Paul "The Truth" Pierce (NBA)
  - Not Carl "The Truth" Williams (Boxer)
  - Not R. Truth (Wrestler)
  - Jesus is the essence of absolute purity, the real deal, the real McCoy, 100% Genuine article.
- Life is drastically different when lived by highest standard of Truth. (22)
  - Living by truth will lose or dispose of anything that is corrupted.
  - Truth will expose the deceitful thoughts that choose to keep you futile in your thinking.
- Life in Christ leads to a new attitude of the mind—life with purpose.
  - Loving God
  - Loving Others
  - Living Truth
  - Proclaiming Jesus.

### **Assessing your need of a makeover in Christ:**

1. Does my behavior give evidence of purposelessness or purposefulness?  
*(Clarity of understanding vs. Futile thinking)*
2. Do I tend to justify my life's choices?  
*(Tender Heart vs. Hardened heart)*
3. Is living for Christ the burn that makes me go?  
*(Living by and for the "The Truth" vs. an imposter)*