

**Gospel Subversion**

Ephesians 4:25–32

**Sermon Discussion Questions**

1. What did the Holy Spirit teach you through this week's passage and message?
2. Read Ephesians 4:22–32. These verses remind us that: As the OLD SELF gives way to NEW LIFE in Jesus, God's Kingdom EXPANDS & EXTENDS. What does it look like for the old self to give way to new life in Jesus? In what ways does God's Kingdom expand & extend as the old life is replaced with new life in Jesus?
3. The above process was described as **Gospel Subversion**—and it was suggested that *God uses gospel subversion to enact gospel expansion*. Discuss the concept of Gospel Subversion: God uprooting the old life with new life in Jesus to expand his Kingdom ways. Is this something you've thought through before? Is it difficult for you to accept? Why, or why not?
4. Read Ephesians 4:22–24; 2 Corinthians 3:18; and Revelation 21:5. These verses remind us that God is making all things new in Jesus and is transforming his people in Jesus' image as old living is supplanted with new life in Christ. What is the challenge of this concept? What is the opportunity of this concept?
5. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul implores Christians to continually “be reconciled” to God—implying that as a Jesus follower is daily conformed to the image of God, this creates an appeal from God to those who are watching their life change. How does this relate to the idea of Gospel Subversion? How do you think God uses Gospel Subversion in the lives of his ppl to reach those who don't yet know Jesus?

—If helpful, the following exercise may be passed along to your group for individual completion and/or group discussion the following week, as appropriate—

### **PRACTICING the PRINCIPLE**

In Ephesians 4:25–32, the Apostle Paul presents TRIADS that identify an old way of life that needs to be replaced with a new way of life and the reason for that change.

#### Step 1

Think of a specific area in your life where old living needs to be replaced with the new life in Jesus. Identify what the old pattern looks like. Identify what new living in this area would look like. Then, pray and ask God to provide a scriptural reason (identify a verse or passage) of why that old pattern must be replaced with the new living.

#### Step 2

On a 3X5 card (or small sheet of paper), **write down** your own TRIAD

1. The OLD pattern of living
2. The NEW way of life in Jesus
3. The REASON why—with associated Scripture

#### Step 3

Keep your triad handy... read it, remember it, and **pray & ask for God's empowerment to new living in that area for his Kingdom purposes**—to his glory & your good!

Please Note: These questions are intended to serve as a platform for God's never-changing truths to come to bear on the current, real-time situations of our lives. The goal is *not* to answer each question. The goal is to follow Jesus with one another in the everyday stuff of life—as together we grow in Jesus, our love for one another, and his calling in our lives.