

St Martins C3 – September 20, 2026

Faith and Morality – Not the Same

Sermon Notes:

As Christians, we are called to be not the same. Our values become different, our thoughts are given a new focus, and our actions are transformed. That is what Paul says in Ephesians 4-5 as he addresses how our faith changes our moral actions.

Read Ephesians 4:17-24

If you are a Christian, you are not the same as the world around you. When you choose to live in wilful ignorance to God and close your mind to Him then you only live for your own lustful pleasure. There is a distorted way of thinking that leads to a distorted way of living. Christians adopt a new way.

We obey God because we are part of a new family, saved by grace, completed by God's love, and encouraged to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. (See devotional notes.)

Read Ephesians 4:25-5:7

We are to imitate Christ as His dear children. We need to ask ourselves: "Do these actions reflect the character of God?" These words are a mirror to show the things and the shadows of things to deal with as God's children.

Speech (4:25, 29, 31; 5:3, 4):

Put off: Lies and rotten talk. Put on: Truth and encouragement.

Temper (4:26, 31):

Put off: Bitterness and rage. Put on: Forgiveness & resolution.

Work (4:28):

Put off: Stealing. Put on: Hard work and generosity.

Relating to Others (4:25, 32; 5:2):

Put off: Hardened heart. Put on: Tenderheartedness.

Sexuality (4:19; 5:3-5):

Put off: Lust and immorality. Put on: Purity & Thankfulness.

Read Ephesians 5:8-10; 1 John 1:5-9.

We are called to walk in the light of Jesus and to stay away from sin. That doesn't mean we will always get it right. That is why Jesus offers his forgiveness.

Read Ephesians 4:23; 5:18.

It is God who is acting in us to transform us into someone who can do what he asks of us to do. We need to let Him in. Determine to drink from His Spirit. Let Him challenge our thoughts and attitudes and humbly obey.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

Because we have been made new in Christ, we are to walk in the light by putting off the old life and putting on the new.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

How do you feel about the moral rules and commands that come with Christianity?

Why does our motivation for being a moral person matter?

Where have you become comfortable with something that you know is not consistent with the way of Jesus?

To what extent do you walk in the light?

Discuss the five areas of behaviour mentioned and what it looks like to imitate Christ in these areas.

Who would you be if Jesus had never entered your life? What sins would you have that you don't now?

What does it mean to let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes (Ephesians 4:23)?

What is one area that you would like God's help to be different?

Monday Devotion: A New Family

Biblical commands do not happen in a vacuum. It is often portrayed that the Bible is filled with dos and don'ts, but the reality is these are usually given as part of a relationship. Here we see we are part of a new family, well before a single rule is mentioned. Reflect on the significance of this today.

Scripture

Ephesians 1:3-14

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Tuesday Devotion: Good Grace

Paul explicitly states that we do not need to earn a relationship with God. Even though we have followed the devil in our deeds, God has saved us through Jesus. Our good works cannot save us; it is only a work of grace. Don't do good works to earn God's favour but accept what He's done for you.

Scripture

Ephesians 2:1-10

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion: Made Complete

It is interesting that before Paul talks about moral obedience, he outlines what it is to be complete. Completeness according to this passage is through having Christ in your heart and understanding the wonder of His love. Moral obedience comes next.

Scripture

Ephesians 3:14-21

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion: Live a Worthy Life

Now that we are made complete in Jesus, our response is to live a life that is worthy of all we have been called to. God has done everything for us, but it requires a response from us. We are part of His family, and now we get to live that way.

Scripture

Ephesians 4:1-3

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion: Imitators of God

When we become a Christian, everything changes. We are not the same. We go from living for our own desires to trying to be like God in all that we do. We are part of His family, saved by grace, and now we have the opportunity to be like Him. We are God's children; let's become more like God's children.

Scripture

Ephesians 5:1-2

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)
