

Ephesians 4:17-32

WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE

When Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves, they were officially free from their many years of servitude, but some of them went on living as if they were still slaves. The President's proclamation gave them legal standing as free citizens. It was a done deal—they were no longer slaves. But, out of habit and way of thinking, many of them still lived like slaves. So they needed to live in accordance with the new facts. When they were tempted to think like a slave, they needed to say, "No, the truth is I am now a free man!" They needed to appropriate that truth into their daily experience.

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

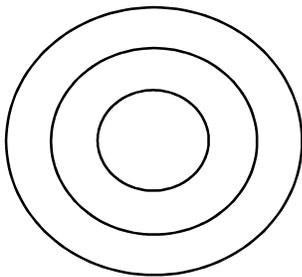
In Ephesians 1-3, Paul has told us who we are in Christ. Now, in Ephesians 4-6, he encourages us to *be who we are* in Him.

Ephesians 4:17-32 could be summarized in two imperatives:

*Stop living your old life!
Start living your new life!*

In Christ, we are new creations—*old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new* (2 Cor. 5:17). At the most fundamental level, our identity has changed in Christ. Yet it is possible to continue to live in the same ol' habits of our past.

WHAT HAPPENS TO US AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION?



Because of Adam's sin, we are all born spiritually _____ (cf. 2:1-3).

By Christ's grace, when we trust in Him, we are immediately made spiritually _____ (cf. 2:4-9).

The old life is described by Paul in 4:17-20:

- _____ in their mindset.
- _____ in their understanding.
- _____ from the life of God.
- _____ to the truth.
- _____ in their heart.
- _____ in their conscience.
- _____ in their lifestyle.

The Christian has begun a walk on a new road in a new sphere leading to a new goal. ...But a walk is taken step by step. So as one goes along the new road and recognizes soft spots in character, backslidings in conduct, danger points in companionship, departures in morals, and compromises in standard, there must be an immediate putting off of that old remnant of the abandoned life. —Ruth Paxson

The terror of sin is its petrifying effect. The process of sin is quite discernible. No man becomes a great sinner all at once. At first he regards sin with horror. When he sins, there enters into his heart remorse and regret. But if he continues to sin there comes a time when he loses all sensation and can do the most shameful things without any feeling at all. His conscience is petrified.

—William Barclay

Licentiousness. Greek, *aselgeia*, "the absence of all moral restraint, especially in the area of sexual sins; unbridled self-indulgence" (MacArthur).

Men love their vices and hate them at the same time.

—Seneca (4BC-AD65)

HOW DO WE GROW AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST? (4:20-24)

1. _____ Christ personally (cf. John 17:3).
2. _____ your old way of thinking/living.
3. _____ your mind with truth (cf. Rom. 12:2).
4. _____ your new life in Christ (cf. Rom. 13:14).

WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL EXAMPLES? (4:25-32)

PUT OFF...



PUT ON...

Usually we learn subjects, not persons; but the Christian's choicest lesson-book is his love-worthy Lord. —E.K. Simpson

*Sow a thought, reap an action.
Sow an action, reap a habit.
Sow a habit, reap a character.
Sow a character, reap a destiny.*
—Anonymous

*The **old man** is the aggregate of habits and methods of life, which marked us before conversion.*
—F.B. Meyer

*Be angry, and do not sin.
Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah.*
—Psalm 4:4

Anger is temporary insanity.... I have no more right as a Christian to allow a bad temper to dwell in me than I have to allow the devil himself to dwell there.
—Charles H. Spurgeon

Bitterness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. —Anonymous

Bitterness grows. It distorts reality. It keeps us chained to the past. Like bad air, it pollutes not just the bitter person, but those who come in contact with the person. —Helen Grace Lesheid

Malice. Greek, *kakia*, "malignant interpretation of the actions of others, an attributing of them all to the worst motive." (Trench)

Whenever I see myself before God and realize even something of what my blessed Lord has done for me, I am ready to forgive anybody anything.
—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones