

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 4:17-32 – Put off the old man and put on the new man

Today’s Message:

“A Changed Walk”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we turned our focus to how we ought to live. A worthy Christian life is seen when believers preserve unity, serve through their God-given gifts, and mature together to become more like Jesus Christ. Today, we will look closer at the walk that God intends for His Church. Paul will contrast the walk of the lost world with the walk of the born-again Christian. It is a dramatic contrast – as it should be. This is one of the most important sanctification passages in the NT. We will answer the question, “What does salvation look like in daily life?” The Christian life is not merely believing differently – it is walking differently. The Holy Spirit will enable you to live a changed life. This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ **The Text** **Ephesians 4:17-32**

A. The Walk of the Lost World – the Old Man and the dark depravity of man.

1. Christians are instructed to no longer live like **LOST** people.

- **Ephesians 4:17** – ... that ye *henceforth* WALK NOT as other Gentiles WALK...
- **Ephesians 4:18** – Having the UNDERSTANDING DARKENED, being alienated...
- **Ephesians 4:19** – Who BEING PAST FEELING... to work **all uncleanness**...

“Vanity of their mind” – spiritually empty, futile, without eternal substance, starts in mind
 “Understanding darkened” – sin affects thinking, reasoning, judgment, discernment **Rom 1**
 “Alienated from the life of God” – cut off from God’s fellowship, life, righteousness
 “Blindness of their heart” – hardness, callousness, spiritual insensitivity; sin hardens
 “Who being past feeling” – a scary reality; sin deadens the conscience and sensitivity
 “Given themselves over... lasciviousness” – voluntary surrender to sin; unrestrained lust

Sin always progresses downward. [Romans 1:21-32]

- **Internal.** Vanity -> Darkened -> Alienated -> Blindness -> Past Feeling
- **External.** Lasciviousness -> Uncleanness -> Sinful behavior -> Moral corruption

Practical Application

- The world’s problem is not just their behavior – the answer is not self-help, morality, education or cultural reform... the answer is a **NEW** life in Jesus Christ!

“Walk”
 Daily lifestyle.
 Consistent conduct.
 Direction of life.

“Henceforth”
 From this place,
 time, or source.

Warning
 Behavior begins
 in the mind
 and heart.

Proverbs 4:19
 The way of the
 wicked is as
 darkness...

“... that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk...”
 He is speaking to us as believers. Sin darkens your mind before it destroys your life.
 We must be very careful. What you normalize eventually begins to numb your conscience.
 What are you doing to protect your mind and thoughts every day?

B. The Walk of the Christian – the New Man and the new life in Christ.

2. Christians must intentionally **RENEW** their minds and live set apart to Jesus Christ!

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“Sanctification”
The act of making holy; setting apart to God for His purposes.

Romans 12:2
... be ye transformed by the RENEWING of your mind...

Colossians 3:10
And have put on the new man, which is RENEWED... after the image of him that created him:

- **Ephesians 4:20** – *But ye have NOT SO LEARNED Christ;*
- **Ephesians 4:21** – *If so be that ye have HEARD him... have been TAUGHT by him...*
- **Ephesians 4:22** – *That ye put OFF ... the OLD MAN, which is corrupt...*
- **Ephesians 4:23** – *And be renewed in the spirit of your MIND;*
- **Ephesians 4:24** – *... put ON the NEW MAN... in righteousness and true holiness.*

“Not so learned Christ” – not just rules, religion; the Word of God transforms your life!
“Put off... the old man” – the old sinful nature; old identity, patterns, desires, bondage!
“Corrupt...deceitful lusts” – sin never improves your life; sin deceives and then destroys!
“Be renewed in the spirit of your mind” – Spirit-led life transformation of mind, then life.
“Put on the new man” – the new nature in Christ; not improved flesh, but new creation.
“Righteousness and true holiness” – Christ produces both; changed desires and living!

Practical Applications

- **Starve the old man.** The Christian cannot live comfortably in the old life and sin.
- **Intentional sanctification.** “Put off” and “Put on” are active commands to us.
- **Daily mind renewal.** What enters the mind shapes and determines your walk.

C. Practical Living – the practice of sanctification.

3. Christians must make daily **CHOICES** that reflect and honor the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christianity affects:
 Your **speech**
 Your **temper**
 Your **work ethic**
 Your **communication**
 Your **relationships**

The New Life
Put off
 Lying
 Sinful anger
 Stealing
 Corrupt speech
 Bitterness
Put on
 Truth
 Righteous anger
 Honest labor
 Edifying speech
 Kindness
 Forgiveness

- **Ephesians 4:25** – *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth...*
- **Ephesians 4:26** – *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon...*
- **Ephesians 4:27** – *NEITHER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL.*
- **Ephesians 4:28** – *Let him that stole steal no more... let him labour... give...*
- **Ephesians 4:29** – *Let no corrupt communication... but that which is good...*
- **Ephesians 4:30** – *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed...*
- **Ephesians 4:31** – *Let all bitterness...wrath...anger...clamour...evil speaking...*
- **Ephesians 4:32** – *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving...*

The Key: Jesus Christ becomes the example for all Christian relationships.

Beware: Internal sin eventually becomes outward damage to others. [Luke 6:45]

- **Internal.** Bitterness -> Wrath -> Anger | **External.** Clamor -> Evil speaking -> Malice

Practical Applications

1. **Salvation produces a CHANGED walk (life).** True salvation affects your conduct.
2. **Life change begins internally.** Transformation begins in your mind and heart.
3. **Sanctification is progressive.** You should be growing more like Christ daily.
4. **Sin affects your RELATIONSHIPS.** Be careful with speech, anger, bitterness, etc.
5. **The Holy Spirit is PERSONALLY involved.** Your sin grieves Him. Does He tell you?

“... even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Personal – *What parts of the old man still appear in your walk? What fills your mind daily?*
Family – *Does your speech build others up or destroy them? Is anger present? Forgiveness?*
Church – *Are we ministering grace with our words? Do others see bitterness or kindness?*