

Out With the Old, In With the New

Pastor Chris Engel
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Ephesians 4:17-24 (NIV)

¹⁷So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. ²⁰That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- **Dead men stay in graves and live among the corpses.** (vs. 17-19; Ephesians 2:1-3)

Characteristics of dead men:

- ◆ **Futile Thinking** (*Empty and Purposeless*)
- ◆ **Darkened Understanding** (*Unable to see truth clearly*)
- ◆ **Separated from the Life of God** (*Spiritually dead; physically alive but dead in every other way*)
- ◆ **Hardened Heart** (*Sin blinds the mind, hardens the heart, and enslaves the life.*)

“You won’t find ‘hardening of heart’ in any medical journal because it is a spiritual condition.”

“Dead men don’t need improvement, they need resurrection life.”

- **You don’t have to continue down that dead-end road. You can be born again to a new life in Jesus.** (vs. 20-24; John 3:3)

“You cannot wear the grave clothes of the old life and the garments of the new life at the same time.”

Luke 15:11-32

Stop trying to become a new person. In Christ, you already are one. So take off the old life, change your way of thinking, and put on the new life Christ has given you.

- **It’s an identity thing... who you are is most important.** (vs. 24; 2 Corinthians 5:17)