

I) V17-19 INTRO: This is say therefore and testify in the Lord that *you should no longer walk*

II) Salvation isn't the result of self-improvement or us fixing our own broken selves

Salvation is a complete and total transformation from one thing into another

III) The way the NT portrays this transformation is by speaking of *things that are new*

IV) I say this because recently a well-known TV/media preacher made an incorrect comment

The comment was made Oct 24, 2021 by Steven Furtick, Elevation Church  
Elevation has 26,000 weekly attendance, 65,000 weekly virtual spectators

V) He said: The process of discipleship is not God changing you *into something else*, it's Him revealing *who you've been all along*.

This post got over 18k likes and 2,500 shares in a few hours

This reveals that many are not reading their bibles and developing discernment

VI) The bible speaks concerning salvation as a *complete transformation*

2 Co 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, *are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory*, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Co 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold *all things* have become new

VII) This is the result of God giving us a new heart and a new spirit

Ezek 36:26 I will give you a *new heart* and put a *new spirit* in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

VIII) Our old, sinful nature has been crucified with Jesus and we now have a new nature

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

IX) Our old nature has been put to death, and by faith we now walk in a new nature

Though there are still sinful desires we deal with, we now identify as new creations

- X) Sin still seeks to dominate, but by faith we live for Jesus  
Gal 5:24 Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires  
Gal 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh
- XI) In ch 4:1 Paul begged believers to *walk worthy* of the calling with which we were called  
Here Paul contrasts the way a non-Christian lives with the walk of a Spirit filled believer
- I) V17 This I say *therefore* and testify in the Lord that you no longer walk as the rest  
As we have seen: God has gifted the church with gifts and spiritual leaders
- II) These gifts are for the benefit of the Body of Christ  
They are intended to mend the broken and to edify believers (V12)
- III) The teaching of God's word will keep the church safe  
It will produce spiritual unity (V13)  
It will bring spiritual maturity in the body (no longer children) V14  
It will bring stability (no longer being tossed about)  
It will develop discernment (being aware of trickery, craftiness of deceitful plans)
- IV) The teaching and living of God's word are to be done with *God's love* for the people  
Gal 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?
- V) It also produces believers who use their gifts and talents, doing their share  
The result is spiritual maturity and the adding of new members to the Body of Christ
- VI) V17 Because of all this, we should therefore no longer walk as the Gentiles do  
We are to no longer order our lives *as if God has no part of it*
- VII) In the first three chapters Paul had emphasized our position in Christ  
He introduced this chapter by exhorting them to walk worthy of their calling

HERE: Paul begins to reveal what a walk worthy of the gospel truly is

VIII) To do so, Paul contrasts the lifestyle of a non-Christian with that of a Christian  
This is to simply exhort believers to live like believers, and not like non-believers

IX) QUESTION: How do non-Christians live?

X) V17-19 REVEAL FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNBELIEVER

V17 FIRST: They live in an imaginary world

V18 SECOND: They are ignorant of God's truth

V18-19 THIRD: They are spiritually and morally callused

V19 FOURTH: They have voluntarily embraced a life without moral restraint

XI) V17 With this in mind: Paul exhorts the Church not to *walk* as the Gentiles  
This is another way of saying do not live like a heathen  
1 Th 4:5 speaks of "the Gentiles who do know not God:"

XII) Their philosophy and manner of life reveals they have no relationship with the Lord

I) Instead of worshiping the God who Created all things, they formed idols to worship

Gal 4:8 When you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

II) The Bible makes it clear that without Jesus as your savior, you do not know God

2 Co 4:4 in whose case *the god of this world* has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they *might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the image of God*

III) Paul now describes how someone who *does not know God* lives

IV) V17 FIRST: He speaks of the *futility of their mind*

Futility: What is devoid of truth and appropriateness; perverseness, depravity; frailty

This way of thinking leads to idolatry

1 Pe 4:3-4 For you have spent enough time in the past carrying out the same desires as the Gentiles: living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry. Because of this, they consider it strange of you not to plunge with them into the same flood of reckless indiscretion, and they heap abuse on you

- V) The paganism of the past continues with us till this day  
This is revealed clearly today in what is called *the culture war*
- VI) For example: When Elon Musk purchased Twitter, we were able to see this war revealed  
The double standard is on full display
- VII) Trump was banned from Twitter for hate speech, but Iran's Ayatollah wasn't  
The Babylon Bee was locked out of their account, but the Taliban continued  
News on Hunter Biden's laptop was banned before the election  
BLM activist Shaun King said that Musk buying Twitter was about white power and the desire for white speech to have a platform, and many are calling for more content moderation
- VIII) Elizabeth Warren said that this was a deal "dangerous to democracy" and that Billionaires like Musk play by a different set of rules, accumulating power for their own gain
- IX) She said this as if Jeff Bezos, owner of the Washington Post, is without bias  
It's as if Mark Zuckerberg of FB hasn't allowed censorship of content, or Warren Buffet, Michael Bloomberg, or George Soros don't control the news that you read
- X) We have Supreme Court justices who can't define the word *woman*, politicians calling parents *domestic terrorists*, bills being proposed legalizing *infanticide*, passport control and demands for vaccines for citizens who travel, but free transportation and medical care for those entering illegally without being inoculated
- I) Those who do not know God live in an imaginary world  
The world they live in allows them to live in whatever way that they want to live
- II) The fruit of living in an imaginary world is the lack of true purpose, direction and hope  
You are left to live a life of quiet desperation and futility  
Eccl. 3:19 Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless.
- III) V18 Their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God

because of the

**SECOND: They are ignorant of God's truth and are enemies of God, in their minds**

IV) I read that about 4 million college students graduated in 2021

This included 983,000 AA's, 1,998,000 Bachelors and 833,000 masters degrees

In 2019, 92,459 PhD's were granted

V) The most intelligent philosopher could never bring them the knowledge of the Holy God

Without revealed truth, man is unable to know God and remains spiritually darkened

Ro 8:7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so

VI) As educated as we may become, education does not bring spiritual enlightenment

Without God, they remain alienated from Him and remain spiritually blind

VII) This is because their *understanding is darkened*

They are continually in spiritual darkness and are excluded from the life of God

VIII) They live in spiritual ignorance and immorality

This is how their darkened hearts prefer it

Jn 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil

IX) V18-19 Because of the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart

X) **THIRD: They are spiritually and morally callused**

Because it is so easy to sin, they normalize it and even defend it  
Callousness to shame develops over time and it just doesn't bother them anymore

XI) When sin becomes normal it just does not impact you in the way that it at one time did

It becomes easy to sin: Drinking, lying, fornicating, stealing all become easy

**XII) We can always find an intellectual somewhere to defend our sin and legitimize it**

**I) Hardened hearts result in the loss of a sensitive conscience**

**We become insensitive towards right and wrong and lose the ability to be embarrassed**

**We no longer feel shame, regret, or remorse**

**II) Eventually, we may even begin to attack anything that restricts our freedoms**

**III) Paul prophesied that this would one day occur**

**2 Ti 3:1-4 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.**

**People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--**

**This is the fruit of moral callousness**

**IV) V19 They have given themselves over to licentiousness to work all uncleanness with**

**Paul says that they embrace a life devoid of moral restraint**

**A life given over to licentiousness carries the understanding of sexual promiscuity**

**V) By giving into life of sin there is a callousness and a loss of ability to feel shame**

**There is no understanding of *modesty* or any sense of right or wrong**

**Without the Word of God, they define a code for themselves and eventually redefine sin**

**VI) SADLY: Today we have learned to simply redefine sin**

**Abortion is free choice**

**Alcoholism is a disease (yet it is age restricted, sold, and taxed by the government)**

**Atheism is Freedom from religion and one complaint can remove manger scenes**

**Fornication is making love, but people wonder how we can stop unwanted pregnancies and the spread of venereal diseases as well as AIDS**

**Gender is your choice**

**Pornography is freedom of the press**

**Profanity is free speech unless you use Jesus' name reverently on social media**

VII) With no true basis for moral judgments you end up banning Jesus' name from prayer

VIII) As Christians, we will not ignore the reality of sin though we are often lambasted

Paul states this is the way of the unbeliever, redefine it or ignore it, it will go away

X) V20 But you have not so learned Christ if indeed you have heard Him and have been

You did not learn Christ means: You did not come to know Christ, speaking of salvation

You are not to have any part of such things:

You weren't saved to remain in this kind of life

I) This is because the ways of God and the way of the world are not compatible

1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world --the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does --comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

II) V21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him

How did they hear Jesus and how were they taught by Him

They received the message from the Apostles and recognized it as being from God

III) V22 That you *put off* concerning your former conduct *the old man* which grows corrupt

We have been saved to serve God and not ourselves, or the system that crucified Him

We are to *put off, be renewed, and put on*

IV) Because we have been called by a holy calling, we are live a holy life

The old man (old way of life) follows the path of corruption and increasingly grows evil

We must realize that we have been crucified with Jesus and now live new lives

V) V22 Because of this we put off our former conduct

Because we are saved, our motivation is to put off our former way of life

We now put on new clothes: because we are saved, we have a new way

of life

Salvation is evidenced by *transformation*

VI) V23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Since the old way of life has been abandoned, we now have a new way of thinking

VII) This new way of thinking results from salvation and our putting off our old life

Ps 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word

Ps 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

VIII) V24 That you put on *the new man* which was created according to God in righteousness

This speaks of an entirely new life, not simply reformed or renovated  
This new self is new because it speaks of us being transformed into His image

IX) V24 *Righteousness* speaks of how we live before people

*Holiness* speaks of our relationship to God

X) This is made possible only through the new birth