

The Way

Fruit of the Church: Ephesians

Lesson 37: Believers Should Live According to the New Position God has given Them in Christ (Part 1)

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Scripture

Ephesians 4:17-32

Review (Where We've Been)

Last week we began the discussion of how good works are displayed in those who have been saved by grace through faith.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Paul urged his readers that *who they say they are* should be reflected in *how they live*.

Ephesians 4:1 (ESV) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy [*equal weight*] of the calling to which you have been called...

"One's calling and conduct should be in balance." – Bible Knowledge Com.

BIG Idea

The problem is that there is still a struggle between the old self and new self.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Who is the old me?

Galatians 5:19 (ESV) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger...

Who is the new me?

Galatians 5:22 (ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control...

We should live a life of contrast - *who I was* (old man) and *who I am* (new man).

The journey of faith takes steps to finish our journey.

Paul describes this transformation from who I was to who I am in Christ...

Information (What You Need to Know)

Paul's Advice for Living According to God's Ways...

▪ Christians should not follow their former, worldly ways

Ephesians 4:17 (ESV) Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles [*those who do not believe*] do, in the futility of their minds. **18** They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19** They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Here are some characteristics of the former ways...

- ✓ *Futile Mind* – minds filled with evil desires that can't produce lasting joy/peace
- ✓ *Darkened Understanding* – blind, ignorant, and unmoved by the truth
- ✓ *Alienation from God* – choosing to live independent of God and His ways
- ✓ *Hard-Hearted* – closed off to the ways of God which results in...
 - *Sensuality* (no concern for social/moral boundaries)
 - *Greedy* for impurity (without restraint often reflected in the most heinous sexual sins)

▪ Believe that Christ has given you new life in Himself

These are not COMMANDS to live, but FACTS to believe.

Three FACTS to be believed when we are in Christ –

- ✓ **Old self is gone** (put to death in Christ's death for sin)

Ephesians 4:20 (ESV) But that is not the way you learned Christ! — **21** assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22** to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

- ✓ **New self has new spiritual/moral capabilities** (can't be known outside of Christ)

Ephesians 4:23 (ESV) ...and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds...

- ✓ **New self reflects the image of God** (lives in righteousness and holiness)

- ✓ **Ephesians 4:24 (ESV)** ...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

▪ Christians should *put off* works of the old self/*put on* works of the new self

Here's what your actions should reflect when you believe these facts –

- ✓ **Speak truth** rather than **lies** (includes exaggeration, adding falsehood to truth, cheating, making excuses)

Ephesians 4:25 (ESV) Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

- ✓ Have properly directed anger (at injustice, sin, causing harm, bullying) rather than misdirected anger (explosive outbursts, angry at everything)
Ephesians 4:26 (ESV) Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27** and give no opportunity to the devil. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath [*rage*] and anger [*settled feeling of anger*] and clamor [*shouting*] and slander be put away from you, along with all malice [*wishing bad on others*].
- ✓ Work hard rather than steal from others (includes mooching from others, refusing to take responsibility to provide for yourself and family, etc.)
Ephesians 4:28 (ESV) Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
- ✓ Speak to build up rather than speak to tear down
Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear
- ✓ Live to please God rather than live to disappoint God
Ephesians 4:30 (ESV) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- ✓ Be kind rather than unkind; Be compassionate rather than apathetic; Be forgiving rather than unforgiving
Ephesians 4:32 (ESV) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Application (What You Need to Do)

Paul has explained many things that we believers should and should not do. Is it possible for us to do all these things? *Yes, it is.*

When we were born again, we put off the old person that we were in Adam, and we have put on the new, holy and righteous person which God has made us in Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit living in us, we should live as new people in Christ.

We have the choice, moment by moment, whether we will live like the unsaved or whether we will live as new people.

If we choose to yield to the Holy Spirit, He will demonstrate the life of Christ in us and through us.