

Ephesians 4:17-5:9

Verse 17:

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. (Ephesians 4:17 ESV)

“Gentile” here refers to the unbelievers.

The believer is to see the non-Christian the same way—not in judgment but to be fired up to get the truth out to them by the way we live.

Verse 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. (Ephesians 4:18 ESV)

- 1) Darkened in their understanding- people act as they think

But the Lord is saying that the unbeliever’s mind is warped, they cannot think right, their reasoning is flawed.

“Alienated from God”- refers to...

- 2) Deadness- they have no relationship with God, they don’t know him and their thinking about him is warped.

*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil,
who put darkness for light and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20 ESV)*

- 3) Hardness of heart- unwilling to respond to God’s truth, this heart refuses to give God thanks, this heart refuses to obey him.

Verse 19:

They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. (Ephesians 4:19 ESV)

4) Recklessness- lost all sensitivity to what is right and wrong

“Sensuality”- a man no longer tries to hide their sin

Verse 20:

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— (Ephesians 4:20 ESV)

“learning Christ”- welcoming him into our hearts, it means we are shaped by his teaching, we respond to him when he lays something on our hearts, it means living his standards for our lives.

Verse 21:

assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, (Ephesians 4:21 ESV)

They learned that Jesus was steadfast.

They learned about how our God loves to forgive.

Verse 22:

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, (Ephesians 4:22 ESV)

“Put off our old self”- We must take that old garment of pride, bitterness, lust, stealing, lying, covetousness every single day.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1 ESV)

Verse 23:

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

“Renew our mind”- we get our minds renewed through His Word.

Verse 24:

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

Put on new clothes

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 ESV)

Love- self-giving service

Joy- joy of the heart

Peace- God's got it, he knows what he is doing

Patience- with people

Kindness

Goodness- doing what is right

Faithfulness- trustworthy

Gentleness- submissive to the will of God

Self-Control- a disciplined lifestyle

Verse 25:

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

Lying is the most basic characteristic of the old self.

Lying traces itself back to the enemy of our souls.

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44 ESV)

Verses 26-27:

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26-27 ESV)

Two types of anger: righteous anger & selfish anger

and give no opportunity to the devil. (Ephesians 4:27 ESV)

When we fail to deal with our selfish anger, we give the devil the opportunity to divide us.

Verse 28:

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. (Ephesians 4:28 ESV)

Stealing- common, cook the books

Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him. (Malachi 3:18 ESV)

Where our money goes shows our heart.

Stealing is all about self-absorption and utter lack of concern for others.

When we put off stealing and put on Christ, our motive for giving is transformed because our giving shows our concern for others.

Verse 29:

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. (Ephesians 4:29 ESV)

The words “corrupting talk” mean rotten talk.

The Christian faith was never about making us religious; religion is all about the outward appearance. True Christianity is about changing the way we think, the way we act, the way we live our lives.

Verse 5:1

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (Ephesians 5:1 ESV)

“Imitate”- to copy someone, another word from this Greek word is “to mime”.

I want to copy God as beloved children. The word “children” refers to a child which shows the same characteristics and nature of their parent.

Verse 2:

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2 ESV)

The first way we are to copy our Heavenly Father is to love like Christ loved.

And the odor of a sacrifice which had a sweet savor was very pleasing to God.

When Christ obeyed his Father and came to this earth and loved us and sacrificed himself on that cross- that pleased the Father.

When we obey our Father and love the unlovable, we please our Heavenly Father.

Verse 3:

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (Ephesians 5:3 ESV)

“Sexual immorality” includes every immoral sexual act with another person outside of Biblical marriage.

“Covetousness”- it is greed for someone else’s body.

“Impurity” ...

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” (Matthew 5:28 ESV)

God wants his children to be holy- to live a radical lifestyle.

Verse 4:

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (Ephesians 5:4 ESV)

Telling off-color jokes

Verse 5:

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (Ephesians 5:5 ESV)

“No”-absolutely none of any kind

What Paul is saying is a true Christian cannot stay in that lifestyle and if they do it is proof that they never were saved.

Verse 6:

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:6 ESV)

“Empty words” - **watch out for those words**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV)