



Ephesians 4:17-32
The Power of Purity
Dr. Jimmy Stewart
April 30, 2023

Sermon Summary

The calling to walk with Jesus includes very clear directives. To meet the standard of the “Over All” in Ephesians 4:6, believers must be under the sovereign authority of God the Father of All. To fulfill the “In All,” believers are given the Holy Spirit to live within them. The relationship believers have with God the Father of All is complete in the working of the Holy Spirit “Through All.” The Over All, In All and Through All is at risk when believers live as the Gentiles do (sinners). Impurity always comes as a package deal with sin. Paul finishes this section of the letter with clear instructions on how all believers are to live in purity and the power that comes from the Holy Spirit’s unfettered presence.

*Scripture: **Ephesians 4:17-32 (ESV)** 17 With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. 19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that isn’t what you learned about Christ. 21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. 25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. 26 And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.”[a] Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil. 28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. 29 Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. 30 And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own,[b] guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

Diving Into The Message

I. Sinners, Live No Longer as Sinners Live. (17-19)

17 With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. 19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

II. Put Off Sin, Put On Holiness. (20-24)

20 But that isn't what you learned about Christ. 21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

III. Directives for Holiness. (25-29, 31-32)

25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. 26 And “don't sin by letting anger control you.” Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil. 28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. 29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

IV. Sin Brings Impurity Which Quenches the Working of God's Holy Spirit. (30)

30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

Do Not Quench the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Questions from the Scripture

1. What does the “Over All,” “In All” and “Through All” mean in Ephesians 4:6?
2. How does this truth apply in your life? The church?
3. When Christ calls us to salvation, He forgives all our sins when we confess and ask for His forgiveness. Have you asked Him for forgiveness? Have you been born again?
4. How is sin viewed by people who are lost? How is sin viewed by people who are saved?
5. Have the views of sin been skewed by the current culture? In what ways?
6. How is the working of the Holy Spirit affected in the lives of believers who sin?
7. What can believers do to live in purity? How is this possible? Is it? Why should believers want to live in purity?
8. Is there a persistent sin that you deal with? Pause and pray, asking the Lord to forgive your sin and cleanse you for His service. Read 2 Timothy 2:21-22 before praying!