

WALK *NOT* LIKE THIS

*Week 6:*  
*Ephesians 4:17-32*

# MOTIVATION

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- We have forgiveness of sins as our foundation, and the power of the Spirit in us to overcome temptation to sin. We are made NEW in Christ and we are FREE to walk out of the Old Life! Ephesians 4:30-5:1
  - We depart from sin in our own lives because we are his dear children. 5:1
- When talking with us about our behavior, activity and actions (our walk through life), God calls us to recognize the truth about our identity as forgiven, Spirit-filled followers of Jesus Christ.
  - This is not about religious self-effort, but Spirit-driven transformation.

# OUR PRESENT BATTLE

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- Watch out for the world, the flesh and the Devil!
- We must battle pressure from a godless culture, disruption from an enemy who hates God, and the temptation to sin from within.
- Remember this about our sin nature: It's penalty is *PAID*, its power is *BROKEN*, and one day its presence will be *REMOVED*. Until then we must fight against temptation to sin from within, and it is a battle we will win.

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“When we are under attack, we’ve got to hang on to the truth... it will feel like hanging on to a rope while you’re being dragged behind a truck... but this is where your strength is revealed and even increased- through exercise. Stand on what is true and do not let go. Period. The traitor within the castle will try to lower the drawbridge, but don’t let him.”

**JOHN ELDREDGE** | Wild at Heart pg. 166

# INSTEAD

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- Winning the battle over the traitor within is learning to throw off our old sinful nature and INSTEAD put on our new nature.
  1. Stop all lying and falsehood and live in truth.
  2. An uncontrolled temper leads to sin, but righteous anger leads to goodness and unity.
  3. Stealing must give way to love and generosity.
  4. Abusive language must give way to words of goodness, helpfulness, and encouragement.

# NEW GARMENT = TRUTH

- STOP FALSEHOOD— We bend the truth in many ways. There is the half-truth. You sort of tell the truth, but not the whole truth... There are the lies that cover for someone or ourselves: The boss is in the next room, but you say, “He’s not here right now to take your call”... Or, lies often go undercover as exaggeration. You stretch the story a bit to make yourself look better or to evoke sympathy. One of the easiest lies to fall into is the silent lie... we cheat on taxes and tests and justify it by saying, “Everyone does it.” Steven Cole

# NEW GARMENT = TEMPERED

- STOP UNCONTROLLED ANGER – Anger kindled by the old man is always sinful, destructive, and devilish. Anger kindled by the Holy Spirit is intended to give those who are engaging in the sinful activity reason to fear. The person who cannot get angry (at injustices) must either be spineless or wholly without moral conviction. John Phillips

# NEW GARMENT = GIVING

- STOP STEALING – Here is a person who consistently, by his own lifestyle, depletes. He takes what is not his to take... It is living a lie as much as telling a lie. It is living a deceitful, false life. It is letting people think you care about them when you really don't. As a matter of fact, you are going to take what is theirs the moment you get an opportunity. Wayne Barber



# NEW GARMENT = GRACE

- STOP ABUSIVE WORDS – Our gracious words spoken to others can be used by God's Spirit to transform trial into triumph and sorrow into joy. Paul is implying that we as God's ambassadors, can function as channels of His grace even in our everyday conversation. May God give us grace-givers the desire and power to think before we act and to think twice before we speak!