

All In with Jordan Easley

I Am New

Discovering My True Identity | Week 9 | Ephesians 4:17-24

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

When Christ gives us a makeover, He makes us a new creation on the inside and the outside. When He saves us and makes us new, there are no surprises or hidden fees. Everything He offers you is completely free and has been paid for by the blood of Jesus! This means we don't have to use our old selves to walk in our new life. Christ has given us new clothing to wear and new power to embrace so that we can walk worthy of the calling we've received! But what does living a worthy life look like? Well, in this message, we're going to see Paul address the Ephesian believers, and in his letter, he breaks this section of his message into two different parts. He shows them (1) What living the "worthy life" is NOT and (2) What living the "worthy life" IS.

KEY POINTS

1. Living the worthy life is NOT Thinking like the world thinks.

In describing how lost people think, Paul basically paints the picture of a car stuck in a traffic circle with no hope of getting out. Some of us remember far too well, what it was like to think like a lost person thinks. We know what it's like to walk aimlessly through life with no eternal goal or purpose. Paul tells us that to walk a worthy walk and to live the worthy life, we must follow Christ and walk in the direction that Christ directs us.

Living your life separated from God.

Scripture says lost people are excluded from the life of God. In other words, walking with God is a foreign concept to them, which ultimately means they don't understand what intimacy with God looks like, and they ultimately have no hope because of their ignorance.

If you're living the worthy life which God called you to, you're not separated from God. Rather, you're connected to God. There's more to being a Christian and following Jesus and living the worthy life than going to church or reading your Bible or praying before you eat your food. Living the worthy life is more about WHO YOU ARE than WHAT YOU DO.

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Giving yourself to sinful things.

When we give ourselves to sin over and over again, we lose our sensitivity and our ability to discern what is right and wrong. Paul shows us that when our hearts become calloused, we cannot live the worthy life God has called us to live. Therefore we have to be diligent in what we do, say, and think about, making sure we're not letting sin linger in our minds and hearts, causing our hearts to be calloused and impairing our discernment.

2. Living the worthy life IS Knowing Christ and pursuing His truth.

Notice in today's key passage that Paul doesn't say that you live the worthy life when you KNOW ABOUT Jesus. He said you live the worthy life when you KNOW JESUS. See the difference? Knowing about Jesus may change your mind, but only knowing Jesus will change your life.

Breaking free of your old self.

In order to embrace your new life in Christ, you must leave your old self behind. Paul says you must BREAK FREE from your old self! You can't leave your old furniture in the new house. He said the old furniture is corrupted. He said that the old couch has the stench of your old way of life, so in order for you to embrace the new life that God has for you, you must be willing to throw that old couch away and break free. And the same goes with your old self once you choose to fully surrender your life to Christ and pursue the worthy life.

Putting on your new self.

If we are in Christ, Scripture is basically saying we've been given a new spiritual wardrobe. The problem we have is that some of us look at our salvation the same way we look at buying a new pair of jeans. When we buy a new pair of jeans, we buy them because we like them. They look better than our old ones. They fit better. They make us look better. But let me ask you this: do we go home after buying a new pair of jeans and throw away every other pair of jeans in our closet? No. We keep the old jeans hanging in the closet, just in case we ever need to go back to wearing them again.

Now, I'm not telling you to throw away your old jeans right this minute. But what I am saying is—according to scripture—when you say YES to Jesus, you essentially say NO to every sinful thing in your life. To live the worthy life in Christ, you must first TAKE OFF your old self (apart from Christ) and you must then PUT ON your new self (in Christ).

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is there evidence demonstrating that your life has been renewed and redeemed by Jesus? If so, what is that evidence?
2. Is there anything from your old life (before Christ) that you're still holding onto? What is keeping you from letting go?
3. Would you say you know more about Jesus than you know Jesus? Explain your answer.
