

## PART 8 HANDOUT Ephesians 4:17-32 “Take Off the Grave Clothes!”

Ephesians Chaps 1-3 Detail the Incredible Spiritual Blessings Believers Receive in Christ. These 3 Chapters Emphasize God's Eternal Plan to Unify Jews and Gentiles into One New Body. The Church Through Grace, Redemption, and Adoption. In his 2 Powerful Prayers Paul ask Believers to Grasp the Immeasurable Love, Hope, and Power They have with their New Identity as Heirs and Members of God's Family. *Last week as We began Chapter 4 Paul Admonished Believers to Walk in Unity So they will Grow in Gods Grace and Be a Witness to the World.* Now Paul Admonishes Us to...Put Off the Old Man and Put On the New Person We are in Christ! **READ Chapter 4:17-32**

- Paul is saying, here's what Christ has done for you. Now, in the light of this, here is what we ought to do for Christ. James 1:22 Says, *“We are to be Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only.”*
- **KEY:** We are Alive In Christ, Not Dead In Sins; Therefore, Put Off the Old and Put On the New! *Take Off the Grave Clothes and Put On the Grace Clothes.*

### In Versus 17-19 Paul gives us an Admonition...Do Not Walk as Unbelievers Walk!

- Christians Think Differently from Unserved People. Vs 18 says their Darkened Understanding leads to Spiritual Ignorance. **Our Outlook, Values & Goals Change when We Trust Christ.**
- It is not simply that their eyes are blinded so they cannot see, Satan Blinds the Minds of the Unserved because he does not want them to see the Truth in Jesus Christ.
- The Truth & the Life go Together. If You Believe God's Truth, then You Receive God's Life
- **KEY: The Hardness of the Unserved Person's Heart Enslaves Him.**
- Therefore, Paul's Admonition to the Believer is “WALK NOT” As the Unbeliever!

Vs 20–24 Paul *Reinforces* His Admonition with An Argument. The Emphasis is on the Believers Outlook,

- But You have Not So Learned Christ **Note: he did Not say Learned About Christ.** Because it is Possible to Learn About Christ and Never Be Saved. To “Learn Christ” Means to have a Personal Relationship with Christ so that You Get to Know Him Better Each Day. **Being in Gods Word**
- **KEY: When We have Believed the Truth, And Received the Life...We Will Walk, In the Way, and Not Walk After the Example of the Unserved World.**

**This Experience of Salvation Results in a Whole New Position Before God.** Our former life, has been Put Away, and We Now Walk In Newness of life In Christ! **In Christ, We've Not Just Changed Our Minds. We've Changed Our Citizenship!** We're Now A Part Of God's, New Creation...and Therefore, the Ideas and Desires of the Old Person NO Longer Should Rule Our Lives.

- **POINT: You No Longer Belong to the Old Corruption of Sin, You Belong to the New Creation In Christ, So, Take Off the Grave Clothes! Conversion Begins A Change that Leads to a Process.**
- Through Christ, We have Been Given a New Position in His New Creation...But Daily We Must By Faith Appropriate (Embrace) What He has Given Us! **John 17:17**
- As the Mind Understands the Truth of God's Word, it is Gradually Transformed By the Spirit, and this Renewal Leads To a Changed Life. **PR 23:7 says, As a man thinks in his heart so is he.**

Vs 25–32: Paul names 5 Different Sins Telling Us to Avoid Them and Explains why.

**Lying.** A Lie is a Statement that is Spoken with the Intent to Deceive. Ex: *We Cannot Not Help Others By Lying to Them!* He Urges Us to Build Up the Body in Love and In Truth. As member's one of another we affect each other, And We Cannot Build Up Each Other Apart from the Truth.

**Anger** Is an Emotional Arousal Caused by something that Displeases Us. **There is a Righteous Anger against sin.** N.T. Principle: The Believer should be Angry at Sin...But Loving Toward People.

- **POINT:** It is Possible to be Angry at Things and Not Sin But If We Do Sin, We Must Settle the Matter Quickly and Not let the Sun Go Down On Our Anger. The Fire of Anger, if Not Quenched by Loving Forgiveness, Will Spread, Defile and Destroy the Work of God.
- **KEY:** When Satan finds a Believer with the Sparks of Anger in his Heart, *He Fans Those Sparks, Adds Fuel to the Fire,* and Does a Great Deal of Damage to God's People in God's church."

**Stealing:** God gave numerous laws to the Jews for the protection of their property, and these principles have become a part of our law today. Satan turned Judas into a thief and he would do the same for us if he could. The first Adam was a thief and was cast out of paradise, *But the last Adam, Jesus Christ, turned to a thief and said today thou shall be with me in paradise.*

- Paul added Motive to the Admonition. Tell the Truth because we're members one of another. Control our anger unless we give place to the Devil. Work, Not steal, that we might give to One that Needs.
- Paul lifted human labor to a much higher level. *We work that we might be able to help others. If we steal, we hurt others therefore we should work that we might be able to help others.*

**Corrupt Speech:** The Mouth and Heart are Connected. Matthew 12: Out of the Abundance of the Heart, the Mouth Speaks. We expect a change in speech when a person becomes a Christian.

- **KEY: "Change the Heart and You Change the Speech!"**
- The word Corrupt used in Matthew 7, Refers to Rotten Fruit. It means, that which is Worthless, Damaging, Unwholesome Bad or Rotten. The Appetites of the Old life sometimes show up when we permit Unwholesome communication out of our mouth. **But the Believer's Words Change...To Edifying Speech that Gives Grace and Encourages Spiritual Growth.**
- The Remedy For Godly Speech is to Make Sure Our Heart is Full of Blessing. To Fill Our Heart with the Love of Christ So that Only Truth and Purity Come Out of Our Mouth.
- **Paul told us in. Col 4 "Let your speech be always with Grace, seasoned with salt".**
- Our words should administer Grace and help to Draw others Closer to Jesus Christ.

**Bitterness** Refers to a Settled Hostility that Poisons the Whole Inner Man. Bitterness leads to Wrath, which is the Explosion on the Outside of the Feelings on the Inside.

- **POINT: Bitterness and Anger, usually Over Trivial things, Make Havoc of Homes, Churches, and Friendships.** Paul gives us 3 Reasons Why We Must Avoid Bitterness.
- **First it Grieves the Holy Spirit.** He lives within the Christian, and when the heart is filled with bitterness and anger, the spirit grieves.
- The Holy Spirit is happiest in an atmosphere of love, joy, and peace, for these are the Fruit of the Spirit that He Produces in Our Lives as We Obey Him. The Holy Spirit cannot leave us, because he has sealed us until the day when Christ returns to take us home. *We do not lose our salvation But We Certainly Lose the Joy of Our Salvation and the Fullness of the Spirits Blessing.*

**Second, Our Sin Grieves God, the Son who Died for Us. And Third it Grieves God, the Father, who Forgave Us when We Trusted Him.**

Here, Paul Puts His Finger On the Basic Cause of a Bitter Attitude: When We Cannot Forgive People. An Unforgiving Spirit is the Devil's Playground, and Before Long it Becomes the Christians Battleground.

- *If A Person hurts us, either deliberately or unintentionally, and we do not forgive Them, We Begin to Develop Bitterness Within, Which Hardens the Heart.*
- We should be tender-hearted and kind, but instead we're hard-hearted and bitter. Actually, we're not hurting the person who hurts us, we're only hurting ourselves.

**Consider This>>>Bitterness in the Heart makes Us Treat Others the way Satan Treats Them, When We Should Treat Others the Way God Has Treated Us.**

- In his gracious kindness, God has forgiven us, and we should forgive others. We do not forgive for our sake, although we do get a blessing from it, or even for their sake, but for Jesus sake.
- Learning how to Forgive and Forget is One of the Secrets of a Happy Christian Life.

**LIFE POINT:** AS A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST...LET US TAKE OFF THE GRAVE CLOTHS AND DAILY PUT ON THE GRACE CLOTHES SO THAT WE WILL LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE AND LOVE LIFE!