




# EPHESIANS 4:17-24: The New Life--Part 1

## I. Introduction

 In our study of Ephesians thus far, we have discovered that our salvation was predestined before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-5), we have discovered that we are eternally secure in our salvation because Holy Spirit has sealed us and is the guarantee of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14), and we have discovered that this predestined, guaranteed salvation is received by grace ALONE, through faith ALONE apart from any works (Ephesians 2:8-9). So then, let us ask ourselves the question, why does it matter how we live? Paul says in Romans 6 *“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means!”* Why does he say this? Are there any implications? Does it really affect anything if we choose to live worldly lives? Paul in Ephesians 4 will point out to us that the implications are HUGE!

## II. Don't live like a gentile

- ❖ Ephesians 4:17--*Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do*
  1. His opening phrase *“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must...”* makes it clear that he means business. This phrase functions similar to *“thus saith the LORD!”*
  2. Why does he even need to say this? Because though we are made a new creation in Christ, sin is still alluring to us.

## III. What is their status?

- ❖ Ephesians 4:17-18--*...in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them,*
  1. **With futile minds, darkened understanding**--their minds are broken. They have a worldview that is incapable of leading them anywhere but straight to Hell.
  2. **Alienated from the life of God**--they have not experienced the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.

## IV. How did they get this way?

- ❖ Ephesians 4:18-19--*...due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity*
  - We have discussed many times that the sinner is born depraved, however, it runs much deeper than this. The sinner lives in such a way that their depravity is deepened and cultivated
    1. The giving into the regular practice of sin

Detestable Sins		Respectable Sins	
Lust	Murder	Anxiety	Selfishness
Adultery	Deceit	Discontentment	Lack of self-control
Homosexuality	Slander	Unthankfulness	Jealousy



# EPHESIANS 4:17-24:

## The New Life--Part 1

Detestable Sins		Respectable Sins	
Greed	Drunkenness	Pride	Impatience

2. The heart grows more and more callous through being engaged in these sins

- “Ultimately, pleasures fulfilled are unfulfilling. It is the spiritual pathology of sins disease, what I take a little of will deaden me to that pleasure and I will need more, I WILL NEED MORE, and it will pursue me...It begins to harden the heart and darken the mind so that I need more and more.”<sup>1</sup>

❖ John 8:34--*“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin*

3. The heart reaches a deep state of hardness. It now is not only ignorant of the gospel and without the life of Christ, it is hostile toward towards it. The heart has become hard and hostile towards God and the mind has become futile and darkened in understanding.

🕒 This is the inevitable destiny of all who follow this pattern, even believers. As believers we are not ignorant of the gospel or hostile towards but when we live our lives according to this pattern it will be hard to tell.

🕒 This is why Paul is so emphatic to say, *“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do.”* He has a pastors heart for his people. He has big plans and big dreams for his people. He dreams of God’s glory shining into every facet of their society through them and he understands that sin in the lives of his people will shatter those dreams.

### V. Put off the old self

❖ Ephesians 4:20-24--*But that is not the way you learned Christ! — 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness*

1. That way of living doesn’t jive with who you are anymore

2. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind

3. Put on the new self, live a godly life! What does this look like? We’ll talk about that next week :)

<sup>1</sup> Bryan Chapell, Sermon: *Of Lizards and Horses: Ephesians 4:17-24*