

The New You

Eph 4:17-24

22 May 2011 – Sunday Morning

BI: Run from the Old and be renewed by the New Man

Introduction: **Extreme Home Make Over**

Each episode features a family that has faced some sort of recent or ongoing hardship such as a [natural disaster](#) or a family member with a life-threatening illness. The show's producers coordinate with a local construction contractor, which then coordinates with various companies in the building trades for a makeover of the family's home. This includes interior, exterior and landscaping, performed in seven days while the family is on vacation (paid for by the show's producers) and documented in the episode. If the house is beyond repair, they replace it entirely

Ephesians 4:17-24 to this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Contextual Background – How does this section fit into the bigger flow of the Book -

Paul when he writes his epistles generally follows a pretty similar format. He starts off by presenting **doctrine first and the follows it up by the application of this doctrine**, what it would look like to live out this teaching he had just given. He does this in the book of Romans with the first 11 chapters being devoted to doctrine and the final 4

chapters being about the living out of that teaching. He does this in other epistles he has written, such as Colossians and Galatians. Ephesians is no different. The first 3 chapters are the doctrine of the Epistle.

The first three chapters discuss the nature and origins of the Christian's salvation, showing that it flows from the revelation of the manifold wisdom of God in and through the Church. The second half of the book, chapters 4-6 applies this doctrine to the life of Christian in the secular world. The second part can be further broken down into 4:1-16 and 4:17 – 6:24. The doctrinal section taught that God has called Christians from all nations and all walks of life to be one people who strive for unity. Putting this doctrine into practice is what 4:1-16 are about. The doctrinal section also taught that Christians are God's holy people who must strive for purity.

This is what the last section of the book is about. ¹

Ephesians 4:17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk,

Paul begins this section by making the statement – that you no longer walk as the Gentiles walk. This statement refers back to the early teachings of our high calling in Christ. We are called to salvation, unified in the Body of Christ, gifted by the Holy Spirit and built up by gift men (4:1-16). We should not be walking in the same manor that the Gentiles walk in.

It is also interesting that Paul says he affirms together with the Lord, the NIV says insist on it in the Lord, this command. He is not just making some statement that is unsubstantiated, but rather this is something that is very consistent with what God has taught and called his children too.

¹ *Ephesians*. James Montgomery Boice pg 153

Walking implies the idea of doing life with, a continual action, Not just a onetime thing, but rather this is your lifestyle.

Who are the Gentiles that Paul's tells the Ephesians Church to not walk like?

The Greek word for Gentile being used here is Ethnos. The term refers to a multitude of people in general and can also refer to a specific group of people. The second meaning is where we get the English word, **Ethnic**. The Jews used it to distinguish all people who were not ethnically Jewish and all who were not part of the Jewish religion.

In his first letter to the Church at Thessalonika, Paul uses the term to mean – the Gentiles who do not know God (I Thessa 4:5), this is the same concept in which it is being used here.

The people that resided in the city of Ephesus were Greeks. The city of Ephesus boasted the Temple of Artemis (Diana) which was considered one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. The temple was a center of moral debauchery and wickedness. Many religious functions performed in the temple were different pervasions of sex. There were official temple prostitutes. It was a very sensual place. There was even a rule that said if criminals stayed within a quarter mile of the temple they would have asylum and no one could touch them. Five centuries before Paul wrote to Ephesus, the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus referred to Ephesus as “the darkness of vileness. The morals were lower than animals and the inhabitants of Ephesus were only fit to be drowned.”

Paul in telling the believers what they are to not walk like explains what the deficiencies of that lifestyle are.

Marks of the Old Man

Paul provides several marks of what a person who is consumed with the old man and everything that, that system had to offer.

Clouded Minds

He first gives some characteristics of the world system that he is telling the believers to not walk in.

Ephesians 4:17b-18a in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them,

Paul gives three characteristics of the clouded minds. The clouded mind is filled with futility, its understanding is darkened and it is excluded from the life of God because of ignorance.

Paul has a unique understanding of human nature. It is from the mind and the heart which flows our actions. Therefore if people's minds are consumed with sin, their actions will be sinful. That is why later (verse 23) he says the beginning of the process to become a new man begins with the transforming of the mind.

The Greeks were considered the pinnacle of achievement in human understanding and philosophy in the ancient world. They were light years ahead of the surrounding nations in areas of literature, art, philosophy, science and politics. The Romans, who eventually conquered the Greeks, actually adopted the systems of the Greeks because they admired them so much. In fact the Romans were so infatuated with the Greek system, that Greek slaves were prizes to have for Roman households – they would run the household as managers, act as tutors for the children. The Greeks thought that anything could be solved by simply reasoning out through one's mind.

Futility of the mind – Futility comes from the Greek word **Mataiotes**, which refers to the idea of something that fails to produce the desired result, that which never succeeds. It is a synonym for empty. Paul is stating here the world system when it comes to trying to reason about things with eternal consequences are trying their best and struggling in

vain. It would have been a **great slap in the face for the Greeks to have their efforts called futile**

Ex. –Goal to get rock up hill/only to have it roll down -to roll a rock up a hill and then have it roll down hill and then repeat the process again. His actions are not getting him anywhere and are completely futile.

Being darkened in their understanding – the idea being conveyed here is a continued condition of spiritual darkness. As much as the Greeks and we now a day try to understand matters of spiritual significance on our own, we will not be able to. On our own we are in darkness because of our sinful condition.

Excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance – this phrase is coupled with the last one, darkness of understanding. On our own, we are ignorant of the ways of God. We will be excluded from God and his plan of salvation because we would never choose to willingly follow him. Choosing to not follow him, excludes us from his offer of life.

We live in a society that prides itself on higher education. We pride ourselves on how great our science, technology, art and literature are. We are not any different from the Greeks.

Calloused Hearts

Ephesians 4:18-19 because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous,

The unsaved have not only been excluded from the **life of God because of their futile, darkened, ignorant minds, but also because of the hardness of their hearts.**

The idea here is that we on our own have hardened our own hearts against God – we want nothing to do with him and his program.

The Greek word for hardened actually portrays just how hard our hearts have become to the things of God. The word is **Porioin** – which carries the idea of being rock hard. When it was being used in reference to tables, it was used to describe marble tables. The hardness that couldn't be cracked

--**ever run into a marble statue? Ouch!**

It was also used to describe a medical condition. When we break a bone and the bone heals, there is a material that grows around that fracture which actually is harder than bone that it was replacing. It also was used of hard formations that would occur in joints and make them immovable. The idea is this is not just a hardened heart, but rather a heart that has become rock solid, stronger than bone hard against the things of God.

Because we have handed our hearts, we actually have become calloused do the things of God. Everyone probably at some point in their life will develop a callous from heart work. A callous is the build up of dead cells that harden. In the sense that Paul is using the word **apelgekotes** in the Greek, it means calloused or to become dead to feeling.

--Greek story – ancient Spartan youth who stole a fox from someone but then came upon the owner from which he had stolen. Rather than let the owner know that he had stolen the fox, he hid the fox in his cloths and stayed stone faced while he was talking to the owner. The frighten fox tore out his vital organs, but rather than give up his sin and seek help, he died because he was so stubborn.

Eventually as people continue down the path of the old man, sin will destroy them and their inner attitudes will eventually become their outer ones.

Outwardly Depraved

Ephesians 4:19 have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

The fullest extent of the old man is found in how far he will go in open sin and not care what other people think of his actions.

Aselgeia (sensuality) refers to total licentiousness, the absence of any moral restraint. Peter captures what it means to be a person who is living up to this kind of life style.

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

Paul says these people eagerly practice every form of impurity. The word that is used to say practice (**ergasia**) implies more than just someone who is being consumed by the desire to go out and practice immorality, but they actually are making a profit off of it. This is a business to them. They are in the business of immorality. This fits very well with the city of Ephesus, as they had a huge industry built around the temple that promoted the lifestyle of uncontrolled sensuality.

Finally Paul states that life style is one that is controlled by Greed. The person who is locked in this life style will never be able to get their fill, they will constantly want more, it will become a lust that is unable to be filled, it will consume them.

Marks of the New Man

Teaching of Christ

Ephesians 4:20-21 ²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

Paul transitions here from teaching about what marks of the old man look like to what the new man looks like. There are some very definitive marks as to what a follower of Christ, someone who is a new man will look like. The first mark is found in verses 20 and 21. There are **three verbs** in this section which all have to deal with education terms.

The first verb in this section literally can be translated **you learned Christ**. It is quite interesting to say that instead of saying you learned of Christ. Generally when we say we've learned something, we state we've learned a fact. But with the implying that the believers in Ephesus had learned Christ (coupled with the fact that this is an aorist tense verb with a singular past action) it is really referring to the idea that people had come to salvation in Christ. When we say some one has come to Christ, we state they have become born again. Here Paul uses a rather different way to state that the believers had come to Christ with you learned Christ.

The next verb is talking about **hearing** Christ. It is best translated, you have heard Christ. While it was possible that some of the believers present in Ephesus had heard Christ teach while he was here on Earth, most hadn't. The believers in Ephesus had heard Christ through the work of Paul. Paul had seen and spoken with Christ and he relayed Christ teachings to the believers, so essence they had heard Christ. Christ in John 1:1 is said equated to be the Word. Anything that is recorded in scripture is the Word of God, so we hear Christ now a day just easily when we read the Bible or hear someone preach a sermon from the Bible. **<heard a call – call to salvation>**

The final verb used indicates that we have been **taught**. It is very interesting to note that it says we have been taught in him, not by him. The in him further emphasis that all of this learning about Christ is the point of conversion for the believers. Many times in the NT when someone is a believer they are said to be in Christ.

The beginning process of putting on the new man is to come to Christ. This is the pivotal move from old man to new man, through Christ Jesus.

Delivered from the Old Self

Ephesians 4:22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

This verse continues a thought that Paul began in the preceding verse, the timing of this laying aside of the old person occurred when the believer came to know Christ has his personal savior. This verse is several infinitive verbs in it, which is important to note because this action of laying aside or throwing off the old self is not something that is done by the believer but rather by God. **(Aorist Tense – Middle)**

This verse shows the contrast between the old nature and the new nature. In the old nature people would not have wanted to give up their ways, where here the believer is say to lay aside the old self. Lay aside literally means to strip off, as in the case of old dirty clothes.

Ex- Army – Camping – playing in mud, dirty, stinky – glad to take the clothes off

The old self is constantly being corrupted by its deceit and lusts. Left unchecked it would destroy the person. The new self is the check on this

Transformed Self

Ephesians 4:23-24 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

When a believer comes to Christ and accepts him as their personal savior, God gives the person a completely new moral and spiritual capacity.

What does it mean to be renewed in your mind? It means leaving behind the values and choices that reject God and His ways and embracing a new mind set – one that eagerly cooperates with God's will and Christ way of life. Renewal goes deeper than the changing of outer habits, it's an inside job in which we daily admit the corruptness of the old ways and put on the new self.

Verse 24 gives us a picture of what the new self is. The new self is a new creation, it is something entirely new. The word new (*kainos*)

implies not that there was a renovation of the believer's heart, but rather that God forged an entirely new nature that was given to the believer at the moment of their conversion. Paul in other passages describes the new man in these terms.

<Just as In Home Make Over Video – New House>

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

This isn't two natures existing at once – the old nature that we had is gone, we have a new nature. We still sin because our flesh is sinful.

The new nature was created in the likeness of God – literally according to what God is. Paul says the believer's new self is created in true righteousness and holiness. The truth is the last word of the verse which contrasts it back to the end of v22 which is deceit.

Righteousness refers to our relationships with our fellow men. That we conduct ourselves in ways that are righteous or free from sin.

Holiness refers to our relationship with God. We are set apart not marked as sinners any more.



---Accept Christ if you haven't

--- Stop living in the ways of the old self - sins that we hunger after

--- Remember our calling as saints – live like a saint

Marks of the Old Man v.17-19

Paul Speaks with Affirmation by God

Clouded Minds v.17-18a

Futility of their Mind

Darkened in their Understanding

Excluded from the Life of God

Calloused Hearts v.18b-19a

Ignorance that is in them

Hardness of Heart

They have become calloused

Outwardly Depraved - v.19b

Given over to every kind of sensuality

Impurity – Wanting more – Greed/continual lust

Marks of the New Man v.20-24

Taught by Christ (School of Christ) v.20-21

Conversion in Christ was not through the old ways v.20

The Doctrines of Christ Point to him as the truth v.21

Delivered from the Old Self v.22

Lay Aside the Old Self – Corrupted by the Lusts of Deceit

Transformed Self v.23-24

Be renewed in the mind's spirit

Put on the New Self

Created in the Likeness of God

Holy

Righteousness -- True

(II Cor 5:17, Gal 2:20)



---Accept Christ if you haven't

--- Stop living in the ways of the old self - sins that we hunger after

--- Remember our calling as saints – live like a saint?

The New You!
Ephesians 4:17-24

M_____ of the O_____ Man v.17-19
Clouded M_____ v.17-18a
C_____ Hearts v.18b-19a
Outwardly D_____ v.19b
M_____ of the N_____ Man v.20-24
T_____ of Christ v.20-21
D_____ from the Old Self v.22
T_____ Self v.23-24
II Cor. 5:17, Gal 2:20

