

I. REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

- A. Last week, we saw that the ascended Christ is the victorious King who freed captives by conquering sin, death, and Satan through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. And in His celebration He gave gifted leaders to His church not so a few can do the ministry, but so every believer is equipped to the ministry
- B. Paul's central message in Ephesians 4 is that Christ's gifts are given to strengthen and mature His Church. The fivefold ministry exists to equip the saints, build up the body of Christ, promote unity in the faith, protect believers from false doctrine, and help the Church grow into the fullness of Christ. A healthy church is one where every believer faithfully uses the gifts Christ has given, because when every member does its part, the whole body grows stronger and is built up in love.

II. CONTEXT OF OUR READING TODAY

- A. In verses 1–6, Paul calls the church to walk worthy of its calling by cultivating the humble, Christlike attitudes that preserve the unity of the Spirit. In verses 7–16, he explains how Christ has graciously given ministry gifts to equip His people and mature His church into the fullness and likeness of Christ. Then, in verses 17–32, our passage today, Paul shows what that spiritual maturity looks like in everyday life, describing the transformed character and conduct that should mark everyone who belongs to Christ.
- B. We can break down chapter four this way:
 - 1. **unity (1–6) → equipping (7–16) → practically transformed living (17–32).**

III. EPHESIANS 4:17-32

- 1. *¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as ¹⁷the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in*

Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. ²⁶ "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give ^[a]place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

IV. VRS 17-19

1. ***¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.***
- B. Paul reveals that one of the primary ways believers grow in holiness is by refusing to live and think like the unbelieving world. Christians are no longer to conduct themselves as the pagan Gentiles who do not know God because spiritual transformation begins with a transformed mind.
- C. **The world has a distorted way of thinking that produces a distorted way of living.** Paul says it leads to "lewdness"—a shameless, unrestrained pursuit of immorality, and to every form of uncleanness.
 1. **Paul's point is clear: wrong thinking leads to wrong living, but right thinking leads to Christ like holiness.**

V. VRS 20-22

1. ***²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,***
- B. Holiness begins with learning from Jesus Himself. We are His disciples! A disciple is a "learner". Holiness grows when we imitate Jesus by studying His life and imitating it through God's grace working through the power of the Spirit.
- C. Holiness starts by putting off the old man daily and choosing to walk in the new man. Paul tells us how to practically do this:
 1. ***"I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me."-Gala 2:20***
 2. ***"Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." -Rom 6:6***
 3. ***"put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge" -Coloss 3:9-10***

VI. VRS 23-24

1. ***²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.***
- B. Holiness starts with right thinking.
 1. Sin first corrupts the mind, then the heart, and finally behavior. In contrast, walking in the new man starts with the mind, which then affects the heart (soul), leading to transformed behavior and a Christ-like nature.
- C. The mind is the control center of the Christian life. Before conversion, the mind is darkened by sin, but after conversion the Holy Spirit enlightens

and continually renews the believer's thinking so that it increasingly conforms to God's truth.

- D. We do this daily by replacing worldly patterns of thinking with biblical truth. Allowing Scripture to reshape our thinking, values, attitudes, and decisions. We do this by discerning truth from lies.

1. **a new way of thinking produces a new way of living.**

VII. VRS 25-32 SEVEN PRACTICAL WAYS TO PUT OFF THE OLD MAN AND PUT ON THE NEW MAN

1. SPEAK THE TRUTH

(1) *Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor*

- b) Paul quotes Zechariah 8:16,

(1) *"These are the things you shall do; speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgement in your gates for truth, justice, and peace.*

- c) Lying belongs to the old self because Satan is the father of lies; truth belongs to the new self because Jesus is the truth.
- d) Lying has many expressions including speaking half-truths, exaggerating, misrepresentation, hypocrisy, concealing truth to deceive creating false impressions
- e) The only way we can be truthful is by going to the source of the truth, the Bible and filling our minds with it.
- f) We need to live truthfully in our marriages parenting, friendships, Church, BusinessFinancial dealings

2. DO NOT SIN IN ANGER

(1) ²⁶ *"Be angry, and do not sin" do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil.*

- b) Paul does not forbid anger itself, he recognizes that there is a righteous form of anger. Instead, he warns that anger must

be governed by God's righteousness so that it does not become sinful or provide Satan an opportunity to divide and destroy.

3. WORK IN ORDER TO GIVE

a) ²⁸ ***Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.***

(1) The new man puts off selfish greed, and becomes hardworking and generous. **Grace changes a thief into a giver**

4. GUARD YOUR WORDS

a) ²⁹ ***Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.***

(1) The evidence of a truly renewed mind is found in the words we speak. Our words are the litmus test of our spiritual growth or lack of it.

(2) Corrupt speech as anything that tears people down rather than builds them up.

5. DONT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

a) ³⁰ ***And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.***

(1) ***Paul quotes from the Old Test again pulling in Isaiah 63:10, "They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit." speaking of Israels turning from obedience.***

(2) The greek word for "grieve" speaks of "To cause sorrow, To cause grief, To distress To cause pain, To make someone sad, To bring emotional anguish

- (3) We grieve the Spirit when we put back the old man and don't consistently put on the new man that walks in power over sin.

6. YIELD TO THE SPIRIT TO CONTROL THE FLESH

- a) ³¹ ***Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.***

- (1) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.-Galatians 5:16

7. BE INTENTIONAL TO LOVE

- a) ³² ***And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.***

- (1) If we don't plan to love we naturally won't. Love is a choice and we must pursue it with intention.

- (2) ***Pursue love- 1Cor 14:1***