

Off with the Old; On with the New

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Ephesians 4:17-32

I. TOTALLY NEW WAY

NKJV Ephesians 4:17 *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;*

“*Therefore*” or “*With the Lord’s authority*” NLT meaning, *From this point forward, don’t live the way you had lived.*

The Old life is the **Dark**; the New life is the **light**—of Christ. Our *new* attitude is much **Different**.

It is a New Walk; New Talk; and Different way—because we throw *Off* the Old ways and put *On* New ways of reacting and replying.

God’s grace compels us to put On the New—since we have a new identity and new way to look at everything.

We Put On the new way to behave; and throw Off anything that is not part of that new way. The evidence is new conversations; new interests; and new desires.

God’s grace not only changes *where* we are going—it changes *how* we act and talk *along the way*.

Ephesians explains what God has done for us by His grace—and what He wants us to *do* and how He wants us to *act* now that sins are forgiven.

The Old way of the Gentiles is put Off from us because the old way would *alienate* us from the life of Christ.

To keep doing something again and again causes us to become calloused to it and eventually to not bother us anymore.

II. NOT JUST LEARN CHRIST—LIVE CHRIST

NKJV Ephesians 4:19 *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:*

The Spirit of God *lives* within and *makes* us **different**.

If we are *past feeling* we have become *callous* to sin, self, and Satan’s ways.

Our desires become worse and the devil has us want more and more—never saying enough is enough—we become callous to selfishness.

But we have not learned those ways and attitudes from Christ—He has showed us a *Newer* and much *different* way.

We were *taught* the *truth* by Him since He is John 14:6 “*the way, the truth, and the life.*”

Ephesians 4:22 “*That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old [self] 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.*”

It is more than just *knowing about Christ*—it is actually *living like Christ*—putting His words and ways **On**, and removing the **Old** ways and words from our heart—where the overflow comes from Matthew 12:34.

The Old way is not part of us anymore—we are “*renewed in the spirit.*”

III. NEW WALK; NEW TALK

Ephesians 4:25 “*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 place to the devil.*”

Back to Ephesians 4:15—“*Speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ*” because 25 “*For we are members one of another.*”

We are *connected* and in *unity* with other true believers. Truth *builds* friendships; Lies *destroy* them.

IV. ANGER CAN CONTROL US

26 “*Be ye angry, and sin not*”—we ask for the control of the Spirit within us—keeping any anger in check and not giving in to Satan—27 “*Neither give place to the devil.*”

Out of control anger provides an on-ramp for the devil.

Anger may knock on the door, but we don't have to invite it in!

V. STOP STEALING—START GIVING

NKJV Ephesians 4:28 “*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.*”

The Old life says—*What can I take?* The New life says—*What can I give?*

Because we now know that God gave the gift of grace that is more valuable than anything else.

And He now gives us the *desire* to give as He has given to us.

VI. NEW HEART; NEW SPEECH

Ephesians 4:29 “*Let no corrupt [abusive NLT] word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good [helpful] for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers [be an encouragement to those who hear them].*”

It is not only *eliminating* profanity, but *eliminating all* words that would *tear down* and not *build up*.

“*That which is good to the use of edifying*”—or to enlighten, instruct, inform, be useful and helpful.

Before *saying* anything think—*Will this build up or tear down?*

Our words *affect* others—and I know they affect my relationship with God.

Before I say anything then, I'll stop and ask: *Is it true? Is it helpful? Will it build up?* Often it is *Say nothing!*

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

VII. OUR NEW WAY

Ephesians 4:31 “*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*”

It is Off with Old anger, wrath, rage, and evil speaking—they are put away forever!

The Old clothing of *Bitterness, Resentment, Harsh words, and Malice* are thrown out and discarded.

The New clothes of *kindness, forgiveness, grace and love* are put **On** as our clothing.

32 “*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*”

We *forgive* because God *forgives us!* We *show* grace because we've been *given grace*; We *love* because God *loves us*.

And He loved us enough to send His Son to die for us. Could we ever repay the debt we owed?

VII. MESSAGE OF EPHESIANS

Miracle of Grace—Ephesians 2:3 “*among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.*”

Our problem is *inside* our heart—sin is what we are ***inclined*** to *do*. 4 “*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love.*”

Grace Builds Bridges brought us from far away to near God and nearer to others.

Grace to Mission gave us a *purpose and a reason* every day to help and encourage someone.

Ephesians 4 calls us to *walk worthy of Christ's love for us*. We are to grow in unity and righteousness and become *mature* believers in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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