

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"The New Life" Pt. 1, # 15
Eph. 4:17-24
11-5-17 Sun AM

1. We finished the believers walk in unity [Eph. 4:1-16], and begin a new section "The believers Walk in Holiness" [Eph. 4:17-5:17].
2. Verse 17 tells us that in view of the fact of our spiritual blessings, and the fact we are members of one body, we should walk different from the unbelievers [Gentiles or the old man].

The Christian is called out of the world and his life is to be different as he walks after heavenly things as a pilgrim and stranger on this earth.

A truth about pilgrims- they left England and maintained their pilgrim character in a foreign land. So it is with us as Christians we are aliens, so-journers, and strangers.

More times than not, the Christian has allowed himself to be conformed to the culture, rather that maintain his distinct identity as a believer.

TT: Paul gives the characteristics of the walk of the old man which believers are to forsake [vs. 17-19], and the walk of the new man which we are to put on [vs. 20-24], then contrasts the old man and the new man [vs. 25-32].

I. The walk of the old man [vs. 17-19]. "Walk not"

We note 6 characteristics of the old man's behavior and conduct in his lost condition.

1. *"Walk in the vanity of their mind"* [v. 17b].

When we think of vanity we think of "pride." The original word means a mirage, an illusion, that which is imagined but not true. Their whole life is following after that which is not true, futile, vain, and empty.

2. *"Having their understanding darkened"* [v. 18a].

Being dead spiritual and without the illumination of the Spirit they are incapable of understanding the things of God.

Why is their understanding darkened?

3. *"Being alienated from the life of God"* [v. 18b].

They are separated from God with no divine life. Man is incapable and unwilling outside the quickening of the Spirit.

Some say there is a divine spark in everyone, but the Bible does not teach that.

4. *“Through [because] the ignorance that is in them”* [v. 18c].

They are wise to the things of the world, but utterly ignorant to the things of God.

Ignorant means “want of knowledge and perception.” Ignorance does not excuse guilt [Rom 1:28].

Lost man was born with this ignorance in their nature “in them.”

5. *“Because of the blindness [hardening] of their heart”* [v. 18d].

The word means a heart that is under the influence of an anesthetic. The lost man is not awake to the true condition of things, calloused and apathetic.

6. *“Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”*
[v.19].

Because their heart is not awake to their true condition, they are “past feeling” or pain in their conscience as the conscience becomes duller and duller the more they sin.

They lose all moral restraint and surrender self to sin. They work hard at sinning.

I. The walk of the old man [vs. 17-19].

II. The walk of the new man [vs. 20-24]. “But”

What we learn about the Christ, we learn in Jesus. Jesus said, “I am the way *the truth* and the life.” The truth of Jesus opens all other truth about God, man, creation, life, purpose, hell, and heaven. In Jesus is true wisdom!

1. Two titles- Christ and Jesus [vs. 20-21].

Jesus is Christ and Christ is Jesus. You can’t separate His being Savior from him being the Messiah.

Jesus speaks of his human name given at His incarnation “Jehovah is salvation.” Christ is His divine title from eternity “anointed One, the Messiah. Lord is his kingdom or rule.

2. Two lifestyles-

(1). *We are to put off “the old man”* [v. 22].

“Put off” is a synonym for repentance from sin and submission to God at the point of salvation.

The old man is the unconverted sinful corrupt nature, it’s what we were before salvation. The man after the 1st Adam, natural man, the old self, the fleshly man, and the lost man. Salvation is a spiritual union with Jesus Christ that is described as the death, burial of the old man, and the resurrection of the new man walking in the newness of life.

(2). *We are to put on “the new man”* [vs. 23-24].

By position we are after the last Adam, the spiritual man, the new self, the saved man. By practice we are to “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind?” [v. 23]. Salvation involves the mind, emotions, and will. It goes from the ear to the mind, to the heart, and out the hands.

See 2 Cor. 5:17, a change takes place in our life when saved-

We are In Christ? Security, acceptance, hope, nature.

New Creation? Regeneration or the new birth. “Birth from above, born of God, made alive.” New in quality, the old self was crucified with Christ.

Old things are passed away? Old values, priorities, loves, plans are gone. *Passed away?* Completed action. Salvation is instantaneous, yet a lifelong process of sanctification.

All things are become new? Completed action in past with continuing results in the present. Christians live for the eternal not the temporal.

Con: Walk not as the old man [v. 17], but walk as the new man [v. 20].

We don’t earn salvation by our walk; our walk gives evidence of our salvation.