

Palmetto Baptist Church: November 15, 2020

Walking in Purity: Ephesians 4:17-24 (Part 2)

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, 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, 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. ²⁰ 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,^[a] 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.

Paul's Appeal. (Ephesians 4:17a)

Paul's Admonition. (Ephesians 4:17b-24)

I. Paul's appeal. (17a)

- A. Paul's appeal was actionable. (*Now [ESV] / Therefore [KJV]: 4:1; 17, 25; 5:1, 7, 14, 17, 24*)
- B. Paul's appeal was personal. (3:1, 14; 4:1, 17)
- C. Paul's appeal was judicial. (I Thess. 4:3-8; I Cor. 7:10-16)
- D. Paul's appeal was logical.

I. Paul's appeal. (17a)

II. Paul's admonition. (17b-24)

- A. Be different from the world. (17b-19)
 - Don't get confused about morality. (17b-18a)
 - Don't try living independently from God. (18b)
 - Don't become numb toward life. (19a)
 - Don't give into temptation. (19b)
- B. Be set apart to Christ. (20-21)
 - Based on a proper understanding of Jesus. (20)
 - Learned - (*emathete*) verb aorist active: to gain knowledge or skill by instruction; find out, discover; learn by experience; attend a rabbinic school
 - NOTE: NOT LEARNED ABOUT CHRIST BUT **LEARNED CHRIST**
 - Based on a personal relationship with Jesus. (21)

- Assuming that you heard about him - (*akouō*) verb aorist active: to exercise the faculty of hearing; to listen; to give ear to
- Assuming that you were taught in him – (*didaskō*) verb aorist passive: to receive instruction in a formal or informal setting
 - As the truth is in Jesus

I John 5:20

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

II. *Paul's admonition. (17b-24)*

A. *Be different from the world. (17b-19)*

B. *Be set apart to Christ. (20-21)*

C. Practice biblical sanctification. (22-24)

- Put off the old self... literally: man (*anthrōpon*). (20)
 - Put off - (*apothesthai*) verb aorist middle infinitive: to take off... literally clothes, lay aside, rid oneself of; stop being a spectator and become a contestant
 - Which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires (perhaps a reflection back to the fall of man in Genesis 3:1-6? Definitely connects to Hebrews 3:13 – “that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”)
- Be renewed (*anaeousthai*) verb present passive: become young again, made fresh
 - More accurately translated: “to be made new in your spirit and mind.” (Rather than implying that the mind has a spirit of its own. 😊)

Psalm 119:9-11

⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace
 whose mind is stayed on you,
 because he trusts in you.

Rom. 8:5-6

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers,¹ by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.¹ ² Do not be conformed to this world,¹ but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.¹

2 Cor. 10:4-5

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Phil. 2:5

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Phil. 4:8

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Col. 3:10

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

- Put on (*endysasthai*) verb aorist middle: to put clothing or apparel on someone, dress, clothe
 - the new self (literally man or Anthropos)
 - Created after the likeness of God
 - PICTURE OF THE CREATION ACCOUNT BEFORE SIN CREPT INTO THE WORLD THROUGH THE DECEITFULNESS OF DESIRES IN GENESIS 3:1-6.
 - In true righteousness (the last 6 commandments dealing with loving your neighbor)
 - And holiness (the first 4 commandments dealing with loving God)

Application:

- **Encourage others to *learn* Christ. (4:20)**

He is the perfect image bearer of God who was not corrupted by the Fall. (Rom. 5:18-19)

He is the only one to have perfectly kept the 10 Commandments. (Rom. 10:4)

He is available to serve as your substitute. (2 Cor. 5:21)

- **Practice biblical sanctification.**

Repent of your sin: Put off the old man.

Swim in God's Word: Renew your mind.

Embrace your new identity: Put on the new man.