

**JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO:
A WAY OF LIFE
Ephesians 4:17-19**

INTRODUCTION

- A. Marriage Changes Lives.
 - 1. You share friends and family.
 - 2. You share in decisions made: children, where to live, etc.
- B. The Disciples of Christ.
 - 1. Lives changed forever.
 - 2. Peter, Andrew, James and John – left their businesses.
 - 3. Matthew left his work as tax collector.
- C. Christians Following Christ.
 - 1. Matthew 5:13-16 – salt and light.
 - 2. Lives change when we choose to follow Christ.

I. LIVING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT.

- A. Description of our former life.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:17-19; Eph. 2:1-3
 - 2. Verse 18 is the key – excluded from the life of God.
- B. Contrasted life of a Christian:
 - 1. “Put off your old self” Eph. 4:22.
 - a. Gal. 3:26-27 – clothed with Christ.
 - b. Romans 13:14 – no longer gratify desires (NIV).
 - 2. “Put on new self” Eph. 4:23-24.
 - a. How to do it. Rom. 12:2 – be not conformed,...be transformed.
 - b. Col. 3:9-10 – in knowledge of image of Creator.
 - 3. Practical applications:
 - a. “Speak truthfully,” – *not even a white lie*, v. 25.
 - b. “Do not sin in anger,” v. 26.
 - c. “Do not hold grudges,” – *sun go down on anger*, v. 26.
 - d. “Do not give Satan any opportunities,” v. 27; 1 Pet. 5:8-9.
“Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, ...”
 - e. “Stop stealing,” – *a fair day’s work*, v. 28.
 - f. “Do something useful with your hands,” v. 28.
 - g. “Pure speech,” – *no unwholesome word, but what is good for edification and giving grace to those who hear*, v. 29.
 - h. “Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit,” v. 30; Isa. 63:10 - rebelled.
 - i. Eph. 4:31-32 – list of do’s and don’ts.
 - i. Clamor – outward show of anger, shouting.
 - ii. Malice – words used to harm others.

II. BE IMITATORS OF GOD. Eph. 5:1; Mt. 5:48

- A. "Live a life of love," v. 2.
- B. "Avoid impurity," vss. 3-7.
- C. Former life contrasted with present one.
 - 1. "Walk as children of light," Eph. 5:8-10.
 - 2. "Do not participate – but expose them," Eph. 5:11-12.
 - 3. Two sides of Christianity: positive and negative. Eph. 5:13-14
- D. How can we live in this world?
 - 1. Wisely, v. 15.
 - 2. Using our opportunities, v. 16.
 - 3. Understanding the Lord's will, v. 17.
 - 4. Filled with the Spirit, v. 18; Gal. 5:22-23, "*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*"

CLOSING

- A. Jesus is the answer to a way of life.
- B. When we choose to follow Christ, our lives change for the better!