

## Studies in Ephesians – The Christian’s Walk, No. 1

Ephesians 4:17-32

### Introduction:

1. The previous two lessons in Ephesians were based upon Eph. 4:1-16.
  - a. Eph. 4:1-3 deals with attitudes which make for unity.
  - b. Eph. 4:4-16 sets forth the doctrinal basis for maintaining “*the unity of the Spirit.*”
2. Beginning with Ephesians 4:17 the subject matter seems to go from the intensely doctrinal to the intensely practical. The religion of Jesus Christ is designed not only to affect what we believe theologically, but also how we live in the everyday world.
3. This lesson is entitled “The Christian’s Walk,” No. 1,” and it is based upon Eph. 4:17-32.
4. Observations:
  - a. In verse 17 the apostle exhorted these brethren to “*walk not as other Gentiles walk.*”
    - (1) Already we have noted that “*walk*” is from *peripatesa*, which means to maintain a certain manner of life or conduct.
    - (2) And that “*walk*” is a “key word” in Ephesians. Note Eph. 4:1,17;5:2,8,15.
  - b. In our text, Ephesians 4:17-32, the apostle, in essence, admonished these brethren concerning:
    - (1) How not to live.
    - (2) How to live.
    - (3) The Christian’s Walk (His conduct or manner of life).

### Discussion:

#### I. “***Walk not as other Gentiles Walk,***” Eph. 4:17-19.

- A. “*Other Gentiles,*” or Gentiles who were not Christians.
  1. “*Gentiles*” as described in Eph. 2:11-12.
- B. “*Gentiles*” who:
  1. Walk “*in the vanity of their minds,*” v. 17
  2. Whose “*understanding is darkened,*” v. 18.
    - a. And thus “*alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them...*,” v. 18.
  3. Were “*past feeling,*” v. 19. Consciences seared! I Tim. 4:2; Jer. 3:3; Ezra 9:6.
  4. Had “*given themselves over to lasciviousness...*,” v. 19. (indecency, filthiness, wantonness, etc.)
    - a. To “*work all uncleanness with greediness,*” v. 19. Cf. Rom. 1:18-32.
      - (1) “*With greediness,*” an inordinate desire for more and more uncleanness!

#### II. In Contrast, Let Your Conduct (Your “***Walk***”) be in keeping with “***Righteousness and true Holiness,***” Eph. 4:20-24.

- A. In keeping with what you have been taught and learned, Eph. 4:20-21.
- B. You have been taught to “*put off*” the “*old man,*” Eph. 4:22.
  1. “*Put off...the former conversation*” (way of life), V. 22; Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3-5.
    - a. This pertains to how they behaved before they became Christians. Col. 3:5-9.
- C. “*Be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*” v. 23.
  1. A change in one’s way of thinking results in a change in his conduct. Cf. Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:1-2.
    - a. A renewal of mind must take place in each Christian! Eph. 2:2-3. A **heart** change produces a **life** change!
- D. “*Put on the new man,*” Eph. 4:24.
  1. “*Put on*” (*endusathai*), a word for putting on clothes. Cf. Luke 15:22.
  2. “*New*” is from *kainos*, denoting that which is new in character, versus new in time.
    - a. “*New man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness,*” Eph. 4:24. Cf. Col. 3:10, 12-17.
    - b. This is what enables a Christian to “*walk in newness of life,*” Rom. 6:4.

#### III. The Application of these Principles, Eph. 4:25-32.

- A. Put “*away lying,*” Eph. 4:25.
  1. The Christian’s standard of conduct is God! Eph. 4:24; Matt. 5:48.
    - a. Who cannot lie! Titus 1:2.
    - b. Lying is of the devil! John 8:44.
- B. “*Speak every man truth with his neighbor,*” Eph. 4:25.

1. *"For we are members one of another,"* v 25.
  - a. Paul compared our relationship to each other to the members of a body. Our body parts do not lie to each other!
- C. *"Be Angry and Sin not,"* Eph. 4:26.
  1. Anger per se' is not necessarily evil. Cf. Mark 3:5; Psalm 7:11.
  2. Anger (*orge*) is an active emotion, in which a person may become indignant or enraged, even justifiably angry; it may be a spontaneous reaction.
    - a. We do not lose our emotions at conversion, but our emotions must become purified.
  3. *"Do not let the sun go down upon your wrath,"* v. 26.
    - a. Wrath (*parorgismo*) a stronger form of *orge*; more synonymous with a bad temper.
    - b. The *"old man"* would get angry and stay angry; the *"new man"* gets over his anger, and he is more slow to become angry, James 1:19-20!
- D. Do not *"give place to the devil,"* Eph. 4:27.
  1. Means to provide an occasion or an opportunity.
  2. One who does not control his anger gives *"place to the devil."*
  3. There are other ways to *"give place to the devil,"* such as: drinking, taking drugs, watching porn, engaging in the modern dance, mixed bathing, etc.
- E. Don't steal; Work! Eph. 4:28
  1. Stealing has always been wrong! Exodus 20:15. And there are many ways to steal.
  2. Christians must work:
    - a. To provide for their livelihood, Gen. 3:19.
    - b. **To have** in order **to give** to him that is in need, Eph. 4:28.
      - (1) This verse allows for private ownership of property, whereas under Communism all property belongs to the State!
- F. *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth,"* Eph. 4:29.
  1. *"Corrupt"* is that which is crude, foul, base, worthless, rotten.
    - a. Impure speech reflects an impure heart, Matt. 15:19; 12:34; Rom. 3:13-14.
- G. Speak that which is *"good to the use of edifying,"* Eph. 4:29.
  1. We should determine to speak in such a way as to build others up, that they may be edified.
  2. That our speech may *"minister grace to the hearers,"* Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6; I Peter 4:11; Prov. 25:11.
- H. Do not *"grieve the Holy Spirit,"* Eph. 4:30.
  1. The Holy Spirit is a Person, a divine Person with feelings!
  2. Note the contrast:
    - a. Don't give place to the devil, Eph. 4:27.
    - b. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit, Eph. 4:30.
- I. Summation:
  1. *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice,"* Eph. 4:31.
  2. *"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you,"* Eph. 4:32.
    - a. "No gift is greater than God's forgiveness, and no gift from me is greater than when I forgive," Caldwell, Commentary.

#### Conclusion:

1. If all who profess to be Christians really carried out these instructions they would truly *"shine as lights in the world,"* Phil. 2:15, and *"the world"* would be more able to see the value and the importance of following Jesus!
2. When we fail to live up to these standards we *"grieve the Holy Spirit of God,"* Eph. 4:30, and this is not a matter to be lightly regarded!
3. For *"alien sinners,"* now is the time, through obedience to the gospel, to truly *"put off"* the old man and *"put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness,"* Eph. 4:24.

--Feb. 8, 2015, Bobby Witherington