

The New Man in Christ

Ephesians 4:17-24

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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. 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. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Ephesians 4:17-24, cont.

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Grace and Gifts

- **4:7: “But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”**
- **The call to be a pastor-teacher is a grace gift by the Spirit – No one can earn (merit or deserve) the right to be a pastor-teacher.**
- **Called and divinely enabled Spiritual Leaders are also given by grace to the church – The church cannot earn a God-called Pastor.**
- **The entire church is a grace gift from God!**

What can we do?

- **Ask and Believe: “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Heb. 11:6).**
- **“By grace are you saved through faith” (Eph. 2:8). The entire Christian life is to be lived on this principle: Receiving the grace gifts of God through faith.**

Three Realities to Respect

- **Ephesians 4:7-24**
- **The importance of God-called and God-enabled pastor-teachers (4:11-13).**
- **The importance of the church body itself “building itself up in love” (4:16).**
- **The work of the Spirit in the believer (4:17-24).**
- **If we emphasize one of these to the neglect of the other two we will be out of balance.**

Breaking down the text

- **The Deliverance from Darkness, 4:17-19**
- **The Development of a Disciple, 4:20-21**
- **The Decision of a Disciple, 4:22-24**

1. The Deliverance from Darkness

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2. The Development of a Disciple

- “The new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (4:24).
- *Ex nihilo*, “Out of nothing”
- “The universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible” (Heb. 11:3).

Born by the Spirit

- **“Unless one is born again he cannot enter the kingdom of God... That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:3-7).**
- **“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all” (John 6:63).**
- **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17-18).**

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God's Witness through Teaching

- **“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:5-6).**

Two Responsibilities in Teaching

- **First, the responsibility of the teacher to present Christ more than himself.**
- **Second, the responsibility of the disciple to look for Christ more than an earthly teacher.**

3. The Decision of a Disciple

- **“to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (4:22-24).**

Putting on the New Man

- **“Be renewed in the spirit of your minds”**
- **“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16).**