

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



Walk in Purity

Part of the Ephesians Series

Ephesians 4:17-32

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Walk in Purity

Introduction:

Last week we looked at the beginning of the Practical (Duty) section of Ephesians (4-6): The Believer's Behavior (Walk) in Christ. To follow the outline of the book, we looked at the following from the first half of Ephesians 4:

A. Walk in Unity (4:1-16) (review of last week)

1. Pleads for Christian unity (4:1-3)
2. Gives the grounds for that unity in the universal church (4:4-6)
3. Lists the gifts given by the Holy Spirit for unity in the local church (4:7-11)
4. States the goal for such a unified church (4:12-16)

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Introduction: (cont.)

This week we will continue this very practical study and take a look at the second half of chapter 4.

The big thought to remember: Learn Christ in order to learn how to walk in purity and then do it.

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Ephesians 4:17-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

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Body of Lesson:

B. Walk in Purity (4:17-32)

The first part of chapter 4 (last week) described the believer's relationship to the church.

In today's lesson, Paul deals with the believer's relationship to the world.

We are in Christ as believers, but we also are in a largely unbelieving world with all its temptations and defilements.

We must witness to the world but we must also walk in purity as we do so and not be defiled by it.

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1. **The World (negative) (4:17-19).** A Christian should no longer walk (live his/her life) like the rest of the unbelieving world lives and walks.

Paul gives three reasons why it is futile for a believer to try to live like the rest of the world lives (Paul calls them Gentiles):

- Their *minds* (understanding) are darkened (they believe lies and have not received the truth) (v.17). (see 2 Cor. 4:3-4)
- They are spiritually dead (alienated from the life of God) and in ignorance and blindness of their *heart* (v.18). (see Eph. 2:1-3)
- They have surrendered *themselves* to do all kinds of sin (v.19). (see Rom. 1:21-32)

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Ephesians 4:20-24 (NKJV)

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

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2. **The Believer (positive) (4:20-32).** The Christian life must be radically different from the world!

Paul gives three commands to help us be different from and a witness to the world (you have not so learned Christ, vv. 20-21):

- **Put off** (vv. 22-23) (cf. Col. 3:5-9) Rom. 6 teaches that our old self has been crucified, buried, and we must reckon (agree with God) that this is true.

We need to change clothes—put off the old “grave clothes”. Just as with Lazarus (Jn. 11:42-43), “loose him and let him go”.

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*A*nd when he thus had spoken,
he cried with a loud voice,
Lazarus, come forth. And he that was
dead came forth, bound hand and
foot with grave clothes:
and his face was bound about with
a napkin. Jesus said to them,
Loose him, and let him go.

John 11:43-44



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2. The Believer (positive) (4:20-32). The Christian life must be radically different from the world! Paul gives three commands to help us be different from and a witness to the world (you have not so learned Christ, vv. 20-21):

- **Put off** (vv. 22-23) (cf. Col. 3:5-9) Rom. 6 teaches that our old self has been crucified, buried, and we must reckon (agree with God) that this is true.

We need to change clothes—put off the old “grave clothes”. Just as with Lazarus (Jn. 11:42-43), “loose him and let him go”.

- **Put on** (v. 24) (cf. Col. 3:10-14) But there is also resurrection to a new life.

We need to put on the new “grace clothes” of the new man which was crucified according to God in true righteousness and holiness. We are part of God’s new workmanship (“poem”, 2:10) so dress accordingly!

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Ephesians 4:25-32 (NKJV)

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another. ²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

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Ephesians 4:25-32 (NKJV) (cont.)

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

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- **Put off** (vv.22-23) (grave clothes)
- **Put on** (v.24) (“grace clothes”)
- **Put away** (vv.25-32) (spiritual transformation)
This is something we do once and for all. (Rom. 12:2)
Certain sins are named in these verses, but notice how each one is linked to a spiritual truth to be embraced for spiritual transformation to take place in us (belief and behavior should always be related).
The way we live and interact as Christians has a powerful impact on the world we live in and witness to as we walk in purity.

(See chart insert in bulletin.)

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Application:

1. Learn Christ, and not the world.
2. Learn Christ, and be loosed from our grave clothes (put away sin) and be free to live for Him.
3. Learn Christ, and be wearing our “grace clothes” (embrace the truth) and be transformed to walk in purity.