

“Old Clothes, New Clothes”
“Ephesians” — Part 12
Ephesians 4:17-24

I. Don't behave like unbelievers.

Ephesians 4:17 *So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;*

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

1. The evidence is there.
2. Hardness of heart (suppress the truth)
3. Ignorance – Agnoian
4. Darkened in understanding
5. Excluded from the life of God
6. Futility of Mind

Ephesians 4:19 *and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

Romans 1:24 *Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.*

7. Debauchery

II. First step - put off the old self.

Ephesians 4:20 *But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,*

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

Ephesians 4:22 *that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,*

Romans 6:6 *knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;*

Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go,
it'll keep you longer than you wanted to stay,
it will cost you far more than
you were willing to pay.

Anonymous

III. Second step - renew your mind.

Ephesians 4:23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

A. The Word

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 119:133 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him...

B. Good reading and watching material

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

C. The people you hang with

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

IV. Third step - put on the new self.

Ephesians 4:24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.