

How to Live a Holy Life

Ephesians 4:17-32

- I. Introduction – Review of Ephesians 4 – A Worthy Christian Life
 - a. Right, Godly Character – 4:1-6
 - b. How Christ’s Body Works and How You are a Part of That– 4:7-16
 - c. A Holy Life – 4:17-32 – Stop living like a Gentile and start living like a Christian – “Why should we be holy?” (Lev 11:44; 1 Peter 1:16; 2Tim 2:21; Ephesians 2:10; Matt 5:16)

How Does God Change Us?

- i. 7 Steps to Gentile Futility – 4:17-19 – H.I.D.E. from H.I.M.

- ii. How to Live a Holy Life – 4:20-32

17So 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, **18**being 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; **19**and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. **20**But you did not learn Christ in this way, **21**if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, **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, **23**and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24**and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

25Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another. **26**BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27**and do not give the devil an opportunity. **28**He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. **29**Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. **30**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31**Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32**Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

- II. 6 Common Errors of Ephesians 4:20-32

- a. Transformation and holiness occurs in _____, when in fact transformation occurs within the _____. 4:17, 20-25

b. Laying aside the old self and putting on the new self is _____ something we continually do, but is something we decisively _____ at conversion. 4:22-24; Colossians 3:8-10

i. 2 “news” –

1. “neos” – young or recent...Renewed (ana – “up” + neos – “new”) mind – v. 23; Romans 12:2 as opposed to the trajectory of the Gentile mind. (4:17, 18)

2. “kainos” – fresh, distinctive, of a new kind - New Self – v. 24 as opposed to the old self. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

c. As new creatures in Christ we’ve put off _____, not just lying in general. 4:25; Romans 1:24, 25; Genesis 3:1-7

d. We are to speak truth _____ your neighbor, not ____ your neighbor. 4:25

e. And f. next week...

Questions for reflection –

- 1) How have you tried to grow in holiness in isolation? How can you be more part of the Christian community?
- 2) What is your identity? The old you or the new you in Christ?
- 3) What practical things can you do to think about Christ and His truth more, and worldly junk less?
- 4) In what ways have you let the lie continue to influence your life?
- 5) How you can do a better job of speaking the truth and hearing the truth?