

Ephesians 4:17-32

- 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,
- 4:18 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;
- 4:19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.
- 4:20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,
- 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,
- 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,
- 4:23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
- 4:24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.
- 4:26 **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
- 4:27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.
- 4:28 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.
- 4:29 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.
- 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
- 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Questions Ephesians 4:17-32

Having begun the application half of the letter with a section about functioning correctly together as a body of believers, the apostle Paul now turns to individual walks with God. He encourages his fellow-believers to turn from their former lifestyle to a new quality of lifestyle that rejects fleshly desires, is informed by the Scriptures, and lives in dependence on God.

1. How does Paul describe the walk of the Gentiles? (v. 17-19) What is the condition of their lives? What is the nature of their experience? Was this walk natural or learned?
2. How does Paul describe the walk of those in Christ? (v. 20-24) What is the source of truth? How does the truth require change? Is this change natural or learned?
3. Compare the kind of honesty of speech and of emotions which we should put on with what we should put off (vs. 25-27). Organize your thoughts below.
4. Compare how we should contribute to needs with our hands and with our speech (vs. 28-30)
5. Compare the attitudes we should put on and off (vs. 31-32).
6. What is the key to putting these things on or off (i.e. walking uprightly)? (v. 5:1-2) Is this something we can do out of our own resources? What is our motivation? Who is our example?