

Expectations

Ephesians 3:20-21

Walk by the Spirit Ephesians 4:17-32

A. The Old Self (17-19)

- Darkened in Understanding
- Callous

B. The New Self (20-24)

- Renewed in the Spirit of Your Mind
- Created After the Likeness of God.

C. Community Living (25-32)

- Put Away Falsehood -> Speak the Truth
- Be Angry -> Do Not Sin
- No Longer Steal -> Work (so you can share)
- No Corrupting Talk -> Build One Another Up
- Put Away Bitterness -> Be Kind

D. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

“...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2a)

Ephesians 4:17-32: 17 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. 18 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. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ! — 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And 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, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Study Questions

- [1] How has your understanding of right and wrong changed since coming to Christ?
- [2] Paul talks about people being “darkened in their understanding” and “callous.” How does repeated sin make us desensitized to God’s ways?
- [3] How does the Holy Spirit help renew our minds? What role does Scripture play in this transformation?
- [4] Charles Stanley says we must decide daily who will “call the shots in our lives.” What are some practical ways we can choose to walk in the spirit over our flesh in moments that are tempting?
- [5] How might the things that Paul tells us to put away in verses 25-32 grieve the holy spirit?
- [6] What does it mean that Jesus is both the “founder” and “perfecter” of our faith?
- [7] In what ways does the “old self” get in the way of us fixing our eyes on Jesus? What other things can cause us to take our eyes off Him?