

Put on the New Man *Ephesians 4:17-24*

Theme: Christian Living

Aim: To show that there is a difference between the way a Christian should live and the way those outside of Christ live.

1. Suppose I were to ask you to identify a person by simply telling you the following: she goes to classes, does homework, takes tests, lives in a dormitory, hangs out with friends, and sometimes is seen at ball games.
2. You would quickly identify this girl as a student. And correctly so.
3. Is there a way, or should there be a way, to distinguish a Christian from the world by the Christian's actions?
4. As we continue to investigate how we are to respond to what God has done for us, let us discuss how we are to live.

I. Lets look at Ephesians 4:17-24.

A. It is a series of contrasts.

1. The unenlightened mind as opposed to the taught mind.
2. The old man opposed to the new man in Christ.
3. The pattern of life of sinfulness as opposed to righteousness and holiness.

B. Paul continues the contrasts through verse 32.

1. Lying as opposed to truth, verse 25.
2. Stealing as opposed to honest labor, verse 28.
3. Corrupt words as opposed to edifying and gracious speech, verse 29.
4. Then the contrast of verse 31 with verse 32.

II. Similar lists of actions and attitudes are found in several New Testament books.

A. Consider the following passages

1. Romans 12:9-21.
2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
3. Galatians 5:16-26.
4. Colossians 3:1-17.
5. 1 Timothy 2:8-12, 4:12-16.
6. 2 Timothy 2:22-3:5.
7. Titus 2:1-11.
8. 2 Peter 1:5-11.

B. These lists do not include every vice or virtue.

1. But well illustrate the point that there are characteristics of the Christian that will distinguish him/her from the world.
2. These are both positive and negative.
3. This we call living as a Christian.

III. Lets return to Ephesians 4.

A. Paul uses the word "walk" to show that this is a way of living.

1. Walk not as the Gentiles, 4:17.
2. Walk worthy of the calling, 4:1-3.
3. Walk in love, 5:1-7.
4. Walk as children of light, 5:8-10 (note: finding out what the will of the Lord is).
5. Walk circumspectly, 5:15-17 (again note: understanding what the will of the Lord is).

B. The conclusion is clear, our way of life, our walk, ought to distinguish us from folks in the world.

1. Can we live that life perfectly? Probably not.

2. But we ought to aspire to that lofty goal.

3. By God's grace and strength we can live a better life today than we did yesterday.

1. How are you living?

2. Lets close the lesson by reading 1 Peter 2:9-12.

Michael D. Greene

Elizabethtown church of Christ