

Ephesians 4:17–24

Living as Children of the Light

Context

- Chapters 1–3: Identity in Christ
Chapters 4–6: Living it out

Big Idea: Grace-driven identity demands visible transformation

Ephesians 4:17 (KJV)

- This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Romans 1:21 — Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God... but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Jeremiah 10:23 — O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself...

Ecclesiastes 1:2 — Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

Ephesians 4:18 (KJV)

- Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

2 Corinthians 4:4 — In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...

Isaiah 59:2 — But your iniquities have separated between you and your God...

Proverbs 28:14 — Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Ephesians 4:19 (KJV)

- Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Romans 1:24 — Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness...

1 Timothy 4:2 — Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Galatians 5:19 — Now the works of the flesh are manifest...

Ephesians 4:20–21 (KJV)

- But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

John 14:6 — Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life...

Matthew 11:29 — Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...

Colossians 2:6 — As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Ephesians 4:22 (KJV)

- That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Romans 6:6 — Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him...

Colossians 3:9 — Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Hebrews 12:1 — Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...

Ephesians 4:23 (KJV)

- And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Romans 12:2 — And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...

2 Corinthians 4:16 — For which cause we faint not... yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Philippians 2:5 — Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 4:24 (KJV)

- And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:17 — Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...

Colossians 3:10 — And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge...

Genesis 1:27 — So God created man in his own image...

Transformation Framework

1. Put Off (Old Nature)
2. Renew (Mind)
3. Put On (New Nature)

Transformation is identity-driven, not behavior modification.

Cultural Contrast – Then vs. Now

Ephesus Culture:

- Idolatry
- Moral relativism
- Pleasure-driven living

Modern Parallel:

- Secular worldview
- Identity confusion
- Self-centered living

Message: The call to transformation is timeless

Example – Saul to Paul

Old Self: Persecutor of Christians (Acts 8–9)

New Self: Apostle to the Gentiles

Transformation:

- Encounter with Christ
- Renewed mind
- New mission

Illustrates: Put Off → Renew → Put On

Example – Augustine

Old Self: Life of indulgence and intellectual pride

New Self: Influential Christian theologian

Transformation:

- Surrender to God
- Changed desires
- Renewed thinking

Quote: 'Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee'

Example – John Newton

Old Self: Slave trader

New Self: Pastor and author of 'Amazing Grace'

Transformation:

- Conviction of sin
- Radical repentance
- Lifelong ministry

Illustrates power of grace to redefine identity

Application

- Evaluate your thinking
- Reject worldly patterns
- Renew your mind daily
- Walk in righteousness