

Living As God's Treasured Possession Part III
Ephesians 4:17-32

Avoid immorality
Adapt Spirituality

Avoid Immorality

Ephesians 4:17 **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.

Testify (martyromai): to make a serious declaration on the basis of presumed personal knowledge

Galatians 1:11-12 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:17 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**.

Futility (mataiotēs): emptiness, purposelessness; folly; vanity

Minds (nous): the psychological faculty of understanding, reasoning, thinking, and deciding

How you think determines how you behave. What you think inevitably shapes how you live.

Hamilton, Ian. 2017. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Joel R. Beeke and Jon D. Payne. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books.

Ephesians 4:18 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.

Darkened (skotoō): darken, blind; stupefy

Understanding (dianoia): way of thinking

Alienated (apallotrioō): be a foreigner

Ephesians 4:18 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**.

Hardness (pōrōsis): unwillingness to learn

Heart (kardia): the seat of desires, feelings, affections, passions, impulses, i.e., the heart or mind.

Ephesians 4:19 They **have become callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Have become callous (apalgeō): to lose the capacity to feel shame or embarrassment.

Ephesians 4:19 They have become callous and **have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.**

Sensuality (aselgeia): licentiousness, being unrestrained in moral attitudes and behaviors.

Ecclesiastes 2:10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

Ephesians 4:19 They have become callous and **have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.**

Impurity (akatharsia): sexual impurity, moral filthiness

Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and **all uncleanness.**

Romans 1:18–32 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Ephesians 4:20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!—

You have not learned Christ in such a way as to say, Well yes, I believe in Christ but I still go on living as I did before.

Lloyd-Jones, David Martyn. 1982. [*Darkness and Light: An Exposition of Ephesians 4:17–5:17*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

Ephesians 4:21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

Ephesians 4:20–21 **You have learned** Christ!— ²¹**indeed** you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

Ephesians 4:21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as **the truth is in Jesus**,

Ephesians 4:22–24 to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and **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.

Ephesians 4:22 **to put off** your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

To put off (apotithēmi): stow away, lay aside

Ephesians 4:22 to put off your old self, **which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,**

Romans 6:6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Ephesians 4:23 and to be **renewed** in the spirit of your minds,

Renewed (ananeousthai): to cause something to become new and different, with the implication of becoming superior

Ephesians 4:23 and to be **renewed** in **the spirit of your minds,**

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ephesians 4:24 and **to put on** the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

To put on: (endysasthai): to cloth oneself with

Ephesians 4:24 and to put on the **new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Be serious about sin

Share the gospel with yourself and others.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.