

## ***Gentiles No More (Ephesians 4:17-20)***

### **I. Introduction**

- A. The debauchery Ephesus in Paul's day
- B. The context of Paul's exhortations
  - 1. Eph chapters 1-3 lay the foundation of indicatives
  - 2. The corporate context of 4:1-16
  - 3. from general to specific; from negative to positive
- C. Read Eph 4:17-20 and outline of the sermon

### **II. The admonition: *No longer walk as the Gentiles***

- A. Its importance and urgency; invoking the name of Christ
  - 1. Application: *Do not take the name of the Lord in vain*
- B. Who are the **Gentiles** (*ethne*)?
  - 1. does it refer to nationality or spirituality?

*You cannot be the same as other people, because you are not the same as other people*

- 2. The previously reported condition of unbelievers (Eph 2:1-3)
- 3. What you were as Gentiles, and what you are in Christ
- 4. Why then does the church ignore this exhortation?
  - a. Romans 12:2 – is the church being squeezed into the world's mold?

### **III. What characteristics of these Gentiles who we are not to walk after?**

- A. (v. 18) *futility of mind and darkened understanding*
  - 1. not stupidity, but rather *useless thinking and vain philosophies*
  - 2. 2 Tim 3:7
  - 3. Rom 1:21-22
- B. (v. 18) *alienated from the life God*
  - 1. Eph 2:1, 12-13
  - 2. Rom 1:24, 26, 28
  - 3. because of *ignorance that is in them* - (a willful failure to be grateful to God)
    - a. a willful ignorance 2 Pt 3:3-5, Jn 3:19-20, Ro 1:28, 2 Th 2:10-12
  - 4. because of *the blindness of their heart* - (willful stubbornness)
    - a. the process of reprobation
- C. (v. 19) *being past feeling* - shamelessness
  - 1. *given over to lewdness* – shocking disregard for public decorum
  - 2. *to work all uncleanness* – excessive living
  - 3. *with greed* – insatiable desire for more forms of immorality

### **IV. Final exhortation –**

- A. A call to the unbeliever to repent while it is today!
- B. (v. 20) *But you have not learned Christ this way*
  - 1. there are two ways and always have been (2 Co 5:17, 1 Tim 6:20)
  - 2. beware that your old friends and family will try to pull you back
  - 3. you are no longer a part of this culture (Heb 11:13-16)
  - 4. Think new thoughts! Renew your mind! (Prov 23:7)
  - 5. The Expulsive Power of a New Affection (Chalmers)