

# Ephesians 4:17-24

Date | 02/19/12

*17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

## **Paul calls us to live differently then we used to**

### **How we used to live (vs. 17-19)**

1. What things characterize the life of the gentiles?
2. What is the root issue that led to that condition? (the end of vs. 18)
3. The gospel is unique in that it seeks to deal with the internal problem, not just the external symptoms. How do we communicate this to those who are not Christians? How can our words contradict this truth?

### **Learning Christ changed us (vs. 20-21)**

1. When did Paul's audience "learn Christ"? In what way had they "heard him (Jesus)"?
2. In what way does learning Christ deal with the problem presented in 17-19?
3. How is this different than any other religion?

### **The process of change (vs. 22-24)**

1. What is the old self? What is the new self?
2. How do we go about being renewed in our mind?
3. Can you give an example from your life of this three-step process?
4. What area of your life is currently the most challenging in this process?