

March 24/25, 2001

## The Truth About Our Life in Christ

*A Study in the Book of Ephesians*

### A Different Walk

Ephesians 4:17-24

### Study Questions

#### Opening Discussion

1. Brainstorm all the differences between someone who is physically alive and someone who is dead.
2. What are the differences between someone who is “in Christ” and someone who is not? How are these differences manifested in daily living?
3. Do you think most believers live “obviously” different lives from the unbelievers around them? Why or why not?

#### Bible Study

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-24. Also read Ephesians 4:1. Paul is continuing to define what it means to walk “worthy of our calling” in 4:17-24. In 4:1-16 it meant to walk in unity, serving one another in the body of Christ for mutual growth. In 4:17-24 it means to walk different from those who are not in Christ. We are to walk no longer as the Gentiles (unbelievers) walk. According to verses 17-19 how do the unbelievers walk?
2. Compare Paul’s description in Ephesians 4:17-19 with his description in Romans 1:18-32.

Read Mark 3:1-6 for a better understanding of a hard heart. How does this idea in Mark line up with what Paul said in Romans?

3. Create a profile of the unbeliever in our culture, based on Ephesians, Romans 1 and Mark 3. How does this profile help you understand the unbelievers around you in your neighborhood, workplace or school?
4. Paul contrasts what unbelievers *were* as dead people (Eph. 2:1-3) with what they now *are* in Christ. In verses 20-21 He says that, in the past, they...

“learned Christ” (Jesus is the subject)

“heard Him” (Jesus is the teacher)

“taught in Him” (Jesus is the environment in which they learned)

What have we learned in Ephesians chapters 1-3 *about* Jesus, *by* Jesus, and *in* Jesus?

5. In verses 22-24 Paul refers to their “former manner of life.” In other words, how they lived before they were “in Christ.” They laid that life aside and put on the new self created by God. Notice all this is past tense. When they came to Christ they were taught to put aside the old destructive ways and put on new life in Christ.

(Beginning in verse 25, Paul will deal with present tense behaviors that need to change. He ushers that discussion in with the word “therefore” (v25). We knew at salvation that the old life was out and a new life had begun (17-24), “therefore” he will discuss how to live like it in 4:25-5:21.)

6. Read Romans 5-8 for a full discussion of what Paul summarizes in Ephesians 4:20-24.

## **Application**

1. List 5 ways in which you are distinctly different from the unbelievers around you or from the ungodly culture in which we live.
2. Are there areas of your life in which you’ve become careless and allowed yourself to slip into patterns or behaviors that are inconsistent with who you now are “in Christ”? Privately search your own heart and identify those areas specifically.
3. Make an absolute commitment before God to walk worthy of your calling. In the coming weeks the specifics of this will be addressed. What Paul wants from this text is an all-out commitment that the agreement of our salvation was to lay aside the old and put on the new. Will you agree to do that no matter what the cost?