

The New Life; Ephesians 4:17-24

I. The Real Problem

- A. I'm convinced that most of our problems remaining set apart, holy, sanctified, come from the old self reemerging
- B. Or maybe we put on the new self in name only, not in reality
- C. We call ourselves Christians, but don't act like it
- D. We haven't made the transformation yet, we are still trapped in ourselves
- E. Galatians 2:20; I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

II. The Old Self

- A. The old self has to go!
- B. We cannot remain in Christ and still sport the "old self"
- C. Make no mistake, our old self is corrupt
 - 1. Corrupt - Merriam-Webster
 - a) To change from good to bad in morals, manners, or actions
 - b) To degrade with unsound principles or moral values
 - c) To alter from the original or correct form or version
 - d) 1 Corinthians 15:33; Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."
 - 2. We were corrupted from our original form (spiritually) in the garden when we gave into temptation
 - 3. We went from pure to sinful with one bite of the fruit
 - 4. This is not to say that we are born in sin
 - a) Romans 5:12; Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned
 - 5. We corrupt ourselves when we give into the temptations that surround us

D. Deceitful desires

- 1. The Theological Lexicon of the New Testament uses "trickery"
- 2. Merriam-Webster - not honest; making or trying to make someone believe something that is not true
- 3. James 1:14–15; ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
- 4. Just what are these "desires" promising us that they cannot deliver?
 - a) The "world" says that morality is dependent upon the situation; do what you want as long as nobody gets hurt
 - b) The "world" says that truth is dependent upon your world view; my truth may not be the same as yours so do and say whatever you want
 - c) The "world" says take care of yourself because nobody else will
 - d) The "world" says there is nothing other than this life, so live it to the fullest, pleasing yourselves however you want to
 - e) This is by no means all inclusive, but just a tiny sampling of what Satan wants us to believe

- f) 1 John 2:15–17; ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

E. But God says to “put off” the old man; get rid of it!

III. Be Renewed

A. In the Spirit of our minds

1. Thayer’s Lexicon - to take on a new mind
2. 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.
3. Titus 3:5; he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
4. We must avoid putting the old man back on by renewing ourselves constantly
 - a) Stagnant water grows algae and bacteria
 - b) Running water doesn’t
 - c) What happens to a dirty glass if you constantly run clean water in it? It becomes clean
 - d) This constant renewal helps us maintain the new self

B. The new self

1. New in “kind” not new in “time”
2. We have changed from the old to the new
3. Romans 13:14; But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
4. To “make no provision” is to not allow the old self back in. Don’t even leave the door cracked open a little bit.
5. Make a complete decision to leave the world and its lusts behind (whatever they may be)
6. 2 Peter 1:3–4; ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

C. We are “partakers” of the divine nature

IV. God’s Likeness

A. Created after the likeness of God

B. Righteousness - right, virtuous, justice

1. Merriam-Webster - morally good
2. “In the OT God’s character is described as “just” or “righteous.” The Mesopotamian term itself comes from a river reed which was used as a construction tool to judge the horizontal straightness of walls and fences. God

chose the term to be used metaphorically of His own nature. He is the straight edge (ruler) by which all things are evaluated.” Bob Utley

3. If God is the ruler by which everything is measured, then there is no other “rightness” than what we find from God
4. Don’t be fooled by the world’s wisdom that tells you there is no standard for morality, that is false righteousness
5. True righteousness is a characteristic of God, freely given to sinful mankind
6. So we look to God’s character to define “rightness”

C. True Holiness

1. Merriam-Webster - devoted entirely to the Deity (God) or to the work of the Deity (God)
2. Set apart or consecrated (for a divine purpose)
3. The new self is set apart; if we allow the old self to remain, we are no longer holy

V. The New Life

- A. We must remove all of ourself from ourselves
- B. We must put on true righteousness and true holiness after the image of God
- C. We must live a new life dedicated to God and service in His Kingdom