

Out with the Old, In with the New

Ephesians 4:17-32

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So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. ²⁰You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:17-32 (New International Version)

The Big Idea: The key to unity is ongoing transformation.

1: Your old way of living isn't gonna cut it anymore. (Ephesians 4:17-22)

*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)*

Principle: Once you know Christ, you can't "un-know" Christ.

2: Out with the old, in with the new. (Ephesians 4:22-32)

The Components of Transformation

- Put off . . . Stop unhealthy activity
(See 2 Timothy 2:22a)
- Renew your mind . . . Change your thinking
(See Romans 12:2)
- Put on . . . Start healthy activity
(See 2 Timothy 2:22b)

Principle: The only way to see authentic transformation is to surrender our behavior (body) AND our belief (mind) to the Lordship of Christ.

3: We're all in this together. (Ephesians 4:17, 25)

- Put off falsehood . . . tell the truth . . . for we are all members of one body
(Ephesians 4:25)
- Don't steal . . . work hard . . . so you have something to share with your brother
(Ephesians 4:28)
- Quit unwholesome talk . . . build each other up . . . to benefit those who listen
(Ephesians 4:29)

Principle: Since we all belong to each other, our personal transformation toward holiness is not just for our own good, it's for the health of the entire Body of Christ as well.