

Stop Acting Like Gentiles

Ephesians 4:17-24

Now that we know who we are

Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV) 4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In Eph. 4:1-6 we are told how and why we encourage Unity.

In Eph. 4:7-16 that a diversity of gifts have been given to build the body and maintain unity.

Do ministry!

In Eph. 4:7-16 that a diversity of gifts have been given to build the body and maintain unity.

Eph. 4:11–12 ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:17–24 (ESV)

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Don't behave like the Gentiles you once were!

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

Gentiles – Ethnos (nations, gentiles, pagans)

They were living in an environment of unconverted Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:1–3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Rid Your minds of futility!

Jer. 23:16 Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

1 Cor. 3:20 and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

James 1:26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.

1 Cor. 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Don't act like those in darkness.

¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Gentiles

Darkened in their understanding

Alienated from the life of God

Why:

Ignorance (agnosis) is in them.

Due to the hardness of their

1 Peter 1:14–16 ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Result of hardness of heart

¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of

A hardness of heart leads to:

Darkened understanding

Mark 3:5 And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Psalms 81:11–12 “But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

Romans 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

Don't become callous

¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Callous – lose of sensitivity or shame, to be past feeling, apathetic.

Given themselves up – hand over too (Sometimes to an authority).

Romans 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Leave sensuality, greed

¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of

Sensuality – unrestrained in moral attitudes and behavior (license, licentiousness, lewdness)

Romans 13:12–14 (ESV)

¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Leave Greed

¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Greedy (covetousness) –
Word group means: a) having more, b) receiving more, c) wanting more. Can refer to power, material things or sexual.

Impurity – that which is unclean (ritually, morally).

Follow Christ's way.

²⁰ But that is not the way
you learned Christ!—
²¹ assuming that you have
heard about him and were
taught in him, as the truth
is in Jesus,

You are not in the world.

You are in Christ.

The truth is not in the
ethnos, it is in the risen
Jesus (the historical
Jesus).

Put off your old self.

²² to put off your old self,
which belongs to your
former manner of life and
is corrupt through
deceitful desires,

Put off your old self:

It is in your past.

It is corrupt through
deceitful desires.

Renew your thinking, put on the new self

²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Renew your minds

Put on the new self

It is in the likeness of God.

It is righteous.

It is holy.

Romans 1:21–24 (ESV)

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Colossians 3:5–11 (ESV)

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

God has done something marvelous for you and
in you.

He has made you a new creature.

Therefore,

Put aside that which you were

Put on that which God has empowered you to be.