



Ephesians

*Finding Your Place,
Finding Your Way*

The Way of Life

You Learned

August 21, 2011

Ephesians 4:17-32

17 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. 18 They 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. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your 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, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

29 Do 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. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Discussion Questions

Have you ever wanted to ask a question, but were hesitant because you felt you should already know the answer?

Why do we assume that new Christians or church members know all that they need to know about their faith?

Why does Paul tell the church that they must no longer live like the Gentiles do?

How different should their lives look that others in the world?

How is that a good thing?...a bad thing?

Paul says in verse 20 'that is not the way of life you learned.'

How well do we teach the way of life that God seeks us to live?

Why do we struggle with this sometimes?

Paul writes that for us to live as Christians that we must 'put off' our old self and 'put on' a new self.

How does that statement strike you?

What do you think Paul's list of traits or actions that don't belong in a Christian's life?

Is it surprising that Paul needs to give these instructions to people who are already Christians/

Why or why not?

What do we take away from this passage for our own lives?