

## LESSON 10 - EPHESIANS 4:17-24

Mirrors don't lie—they always reflect the truth! When looking into a mirror our responsibility is to make the adjustments as they are vividly pointed out! A smudge on our face, hair out of place, or lipstick on your teeth...Yikes! We all understand that fact. Confirming in Ephesians 4, Paul places the mirror of verses 17-24 before us to reveal areas that may need adjusting.



## THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

*Read Ephesians 4:17-24*

Carefully read Ephesians 4 as a whole to review the theme and tone of the chapter. As you read, ask the Lord to illuminate His Word and prepare your heart to receive the wisdom He desires to impart.

1. In your own words, try to summarize the main points taught here.
2. What phrases does Paul use to emphasize that Christians are to be different from unbelievers?
3. Since these Ephesian believers have been delivered from their past sin, why would they need to be reminded to put off their old, former lifestyles and put on the new? (see Romans 7:14–19)



## MIXING THE MORTAR

*Read Ephesians 4:17-19*

4. How would you interpret the language of verse 17? Is it a command, a suggestion, a consideration, or an idea?

5. Using a dictionary, look up the definition of futility. How does this describe the thinking of an unbeliever and the world as we know it?

a. Can you remember a time when you might have thought this way?

b. What were the consequences?

6. In verses 18 and 19, what five traits of a worldly walk are summed up in the word futility?

o \_\_\_\_\_

o \_\_\_\_\_

o \_\_\_\_\_

o \_\_\_\_\_

o \_\_\_\_\_

7. From verse 18, how does Paul describe someone that alienates herself from God?

8. Look up Romans 1:21–22 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. In what way does this explain an unsaved man’s thinking?
  
9. Again in verse 19, Paul describes unbelievers as having lost all sensitivity toward God. In what way is this description of an unbeliever’s hardness of heart similar to an actual callousness?
  - a. Is there a warning here for believers as well?
  
  - b. What are some specific things a Christian can do to keep a tender conscience?

## CUTTING THE STONE



The description we read here of walking in futility is the universal condition of the human heart apart from new life in Christ. In fact, Ephesians 2:3 reminds us that we all once lived that way—selfish and disobedient, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature. Are you still hanging on to part of a lifestyle you followed before you became a Christian? How is your life different now as a follower of Christ? If you are not actively pursuing a godly lifestyle, you are allowing your flesh to dictate your walk. Don’t just drift through life as unbelievers do. This week—today—ask the

Holy Spirit to forgive your sin to create in you a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within you. Prayerfully write out some specific goals that will keep you moving toward spiritual maturity and a life of godly purpose.

My Goals:

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*The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment;  
the growth of a saint is the work of a lifetime.*



## USING A TROWEL

**Read Ephesians 4:20–24**

Mark Twain once said “A habit cannot be tossed out the window; it must be coaxed down the stairs ONE step at a time!” Great words! We all deal with habits; if they are God-given, they will add to the very core of your life. However, if they are harmful, sinful habits, not only will they deteriorate your life, but they will also be hard to break. Paul teaches us in this next section that we **MUST** replace bad habits with good ones.

10. “But you” are words of contrast. What is the contrast Paul is making?
  - a. What had the Ephesians learned that the Gentiles did not learn?

b. Define the meaning of the phrase “learned Christ.”

c. Is there a difference in knowing about Christ and knowing Christ? Please explain.

11. Unfortunately, it can be just as easy to justify bad habits / wrong behavior by using the “But” phrase. Underline any excuse you have used or are currently using to justify a bad habit:

But...everyone does it.

But...it’s not really harming anyone.

But...I can handle it.

But...it’s not that bad.

But...it’s just once in a while.

But...it’s just the way I am.

But...it’s just my hormones.

If you can relate to any of these, beloved, realize it is an excuse! The good news is that we all have the ability to exchange that old life and its excuses for a new life with new hope and strength to live in a way that pleases God. Take a moment to pray over these excuses and receive God’s grace, strength, and help to live for HIM in every area of life.

12. Moving to verse 21, what does it mean to put off the “old man” and put on the “new man”?
  - a. How does our old man grow?
  - b. In what way do lusts deceive us?
  - c. How can we avoid this deception?
  
13. In verse 23, what is a crucial part of our maturing process as Christians?
  - a. Why does the spirit of our mind need renewing?
  - b. What does this renewal look like?
  - c. How is this accomplished?
  
14. Is putting on the new man a one-time event or a process?
  - a. Who is responsible for this new creation?

15. The word new does not mean simply renovated, but entirely new—new in species or character. The new self is new because it has been created in the likeness of God—in true righteousness and holiness. Why do you suppose these two characteristics were chosen to encourage us to be like God?

## STONE QUARRY



*The renewal of the mind at salvation brings not just a renovation of character, but also a transformation of the old self to the new self. Look up the following passages and note what you find that helps explain the process of change Paul describes in Ephesians 4:22–24.*

*Romans 8:5–6*

*Romans 12:1–2*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

*Choose one of these verses to memorize this week.*





# STONE UPON STONE

## *Group Discussion Questions*

Take a moment to answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message. Read Ephesians 4:17–24.

1. Why is it important that a believer's lifestyle be different from that of non-believers?
2. Since Christians are new creations, should we still be struggling with old sins? Please explain your answer.
3. What are some specific things we can do to eliminate or change the habits and practices of our old lifestyle?
4. How would you counsel a person who claimed to be a born-again Christian but was still living as verse 19 describes?
5. What are some practical ways to be "renewed in the spirit of your mind"?
6. Is there one lesson you learned from this passage personally that helped you? If so, please share.









