



Empowering People to Change the World

You Are a New Person!

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Don't be Deceived - You are a New Person!

Ephesians 4:17-24

In the first 3 chapters, we have looked at the wealth we have in Christ, and in chapter 4 we have taken a turn. We are now looking at our walk with Christ. You cannot walk with Christ if you don't understand the wealth we have in Christ

In chapter 4, verses 1-6, we have looked at the unity of God and the unity of the body.

In verses 7-16, we have studied just how important spiritual gifts are in the church...the empowered Church.

Ex. There is a story of a baby eagle that fell into turkey flock. The eagle was raised by the turkeys. He ate and slept with the turkeys. He thought he was a turkey. Many times, he looked up into the sky to see the beautiful and powerful eagles flying high in the air nearby. He often wondered what it would be like to fly like an eagle. Little did he know that he had the wings and capacity to fly like an eagle, because he was an eagle.

Many of us are living like this. We have never been told who we really are! We have forgotten the kind of person God has made us! We are a new person! We have been born again to new life in Christ! Christ has set us free from the old life, the old habits, the old ways.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." NKJV

Don't be deceived by Satan. You are a NEW PERSON IN CHRIST!

Verse 17

- "Therefore" - it is "there for" - because of the spiritual gifting and power that God has given you in the earlier verses! Because you have been given divine wings by God.

- “No longer walk as the rest of the gentiles walk.” No need to walk the life you once walked! You are set free from that old life. Quit living like a turkey. Live like an eagle.
- “Futility of their mind” - empty, vanity - meaning that the thinking of this world is empty and vain.
 - Our belief system, our faith system, begins in the mind! The mind is so important. You have to keep renewing your mind.
 - Ex. Commercials are about images, colors, and music that seduces your mind. This is often vain and empty.
 - Have you ever listened to Hollywood on about any issue? It is really sad...the lack of discernment...the lack of any values.
 - Paul explains why this is true.

Verses 18-20 - Darkened Understanding

- There is darkness over their understanding.
 - Drugs...think about the vanity of that! You put a chemical into your system for a little pleasure.
 - Sexual affairs...lose everything for a moment of pleasure.
 - Gossiping...you always get found out! Your secrets always come out and get you.
 - Verse 19 - “being past feeling” - our conscience gets so seared that we cannot discern what is right and wrong anymore!
- Many times, you are sharing your faith with someone, and they just don’t get it. It is foreign to them because their understanding is still darkened.
- All of creation and beauty of God around, and yet they can’t see it? Satan has given them a love for the darkness! They hate the light.

- There is a blindness over their hearts!

Ephesians 2:2

“...You once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” NKJV

2 Corinthians 4:4

“Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” NKJV

- This is a spiritual warfare issue! Satan has blinded people’s hearts!
- This is why we have to be in prayer for our unsaved friends and family. God must change their hearts.
- But Paul is speaking to us. Is it possible to be a believer in Christ and yet still be living as if our minds and hearts are blinded? Yes, it is. Many believers today are still caught in the web of an unrenewed mind.
- So important: books you read, magazines, TV, movies.
- Ex. The mind is like a video camera; camcorder. It never forgets the images it records. These movies just keep playing in our minds!
- We must renew our minds and realize in our thinking that we are a new person. We are eagles! We don’t have to be caught in our sin anymore.
- Verse 20 - LEARN Christ! Learn to know and love Him; worship Him. Being a follower of Christ is not learning “principles” and “lessons,” but loving Jesus! It all begins and ends with Jesus.
- If you don’t know Jesus this morning:
 - Your mind cannot be renewed.
 - Your thinking cannot be transformed.
 - You cannot live in the light.

Verse 21 - Renew your mind with truth.

- The key is focus on Jesus.

- **Hebrews 12:1-2**

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- All truth is found in Jesus! This is what worship is about. It is about focusing on Jesus.
- Take our eyes off ourselves, our problems, our issues. On Sunday morning, we come here and are often so distracted. The focus has to be Jesus.
- This is how we renew our minds: Focusing on Jesus during worship; focusing on Jesus when we study God’s Word; focusing on Jesus in our relationships; focusing on Jesus at work!
- But it is not just focusing on Jesus. We also must “put off the old turkey man!”

Verses 22-24 - Put on the new person.

- We are still growing corrupt! Left to our own devices, we continue to be corrupted.
- We have these “deceitful lusts” that are continually a battle for us. The only way to be set free is to renew the mind.
- So, we have this balance of 1) putting on the new man, the eagle, through focusing on Jesus through renewing the mind; and 2) putting off the old man, the lusts, the deception.
- Ex. You cannot put on the new clothes without taking off the old.

Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

- Information→Revelation→Transformation
- This process only comes through the renewing of the mind. This is how we discover the "good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- I think this is a progression: Good→Acceptable→Perfect
- Ex. White dog and black dog in the backyard always fighting...which one wins? The one you feed the most.

Start thinking with your new mind. You have a new mind and a new heart; you are a new creation.

How the new person walks: Six things you must know...Next Week