

Family Worship Guide

Sunday, July 24, 2016

Ephesians 4:17-32

“Being Equipped in Christ”

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one *of you* with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

²⁶ Be angry, and *yet* do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.

²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

Getting Started

- What is the best piece of clothing you have had for years and can't seem to discard?

Going Deeper

- What does it mean to “lay aside the old self” and “put on the new self”? From verses 31-32, what negative attitudes should we eliminate and what positive attitudes should we cultivate?
- What grade would you give yourself on putting verse 29 into practice this past week? How have your attitudes, actions, and thoughts changed since turning your life over to God?

Bringing it Home

- What are the positive and/or negative motivations which prompt you to live a Christian life? Where do you feel you are making progress in your Christian life?
- Of all the commands given here for Christian living, which seems to be the major command with which God is challenging you in your life?¹

¹ Questions taken from *Serendipity Bible for Groups*, 4th Ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 1628.