



**The Christian Way of Life**  
 16<sup>th</sup> in the “Ephesians” Series  
 Ephesians 4:17-24  
 May 31, 2026  
 Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction**

In this passage, we learn about the Christian way of life and are exhorted to put on “the new self.”

1) Christians, do not live as the non-Christians do (vv. 17-19).

<u>ROMANS 1:18-32</u>		<u>EPHESIANS 4:17-19</u>
18 – “people ... suppress the truth” 21 – “although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him.” 28 – “they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God.”	<b>Stage 1: Rejection</b>	18 – “due to the hardening of their hearts”
21 – “their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened” 22 – “they became fools” 28 – “God gave them over to a depraved mind”	<b>Stage 2: Darkness</b>	17 – “the futility of their thinking” 18a – “They are darkened in their understanding” 18b – “the ignorance that is in them.”
24 – “Therefore, God gave them over” 26 – “Because of this, God gave them over” 28 – “so God gave them over”	<b>Stage 3: Judgment</b>	18 – “They are ... separated from the life of God”
24 – “sexual impurity” 26 – “shameful lusts” 27 – “shameful acts” 28 – “they do what ought not to be done” 29 – “every kind of wickedness”	<b>Stage 4: Recklessness</b>	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.”

\*Adapted from J. Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, 136.

2) Christians, put off your “old self” and put on “the new self” (vv. 20-24).

**Response**

Lord, help us to be made new in the attitude of our minds regarding sin and obedience.

## Sunday Text Questions

Ephesians 4:17-24

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) From your own experience or knowledge, what differences happen in a person's life (their desires, dreams, and attitudes) when they become a Christian?
  
- 2) Why does the Lord insist in v. 17 that Christians not live like the non-Christians in the world around us? What is wrong with the behaviors and practices of non-Christians?
  
- 3) Can you see the downward path of the non-Christian life in vv. 17-19 (see chart in notes for help)? How have you seen that path in the life of non-Christians you know? How does that path describe so much of the brokenness in our world today?
  
- 4) How should Christians think about and respond to the destructive lives of non-Christians? How can we avoid and reject their behaviors and actions while still loving them and pursuing them with the gospel?
  
- 5) How have you learned or been taught the Christian "way of life" (v. 20-21) in your Christian life and experience? How does the church teach that well to Christians? How can the church do better at instructing Christians, maybe especially new Christians, on the way of righteousness and holiness?
  
- 6) How does one "put off" the old self and "put on" the new self? Be specific and practical in what this looks like, or even how you practice this command in your own Christian life.
  
- 7) Spend some time praying together: if you are willing, confess sin to one another or share areas of sin for which you want prayer and maybe accountability. If not specific, pray generally that the Lord would help you "be made new in the attitude of your mind" (v. 23) regarding sin and obedience.

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the message of this week's text: Romans 6:3-6 (Mon); Colossians 3:9-10 (Tues); Galatians 2:20 (Wed); 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Thurs); Romans 12:2 (Fri).