

# **EPHESIANS STUDY WEEK 7**

## **EPHESIANS 4:17-5:14**

How we live our lives matters. It matters to God, to us and to the people around us. The end of chapter 4 and beginning of chapter 5, Paul tells us how our lives should look. People should be able to see a difference in our lives because of the ways we live. Paul says in these verses to “throw off” our old selves and “put on” our new nature, and be like Jesus! You must ask yourself, has there been a change in my life? Am I growing and looking more like Jesus? Did you know we can grieve the Holy Spirit by the way we live? Paul warns us against such things, and teaches us how we are to behave. We are to imitate God, He gave His life for us, and we are called to love people with the same kind of love. It’s time to grow!

**\*\*\*Read Ephesians 4:17- 5:14\*\*\***

**Look in verses 4:17-19. Paul lists 8 characteristics of the life of those who do not know God. What would the opposite of these things look like?**

1. Hopelessly Confused
2. Minds full of darkness
3. Far from God
4. Closed minds
5. Hardened hearts
6. No sense of shame
7. Live for lustful pleasure
8. Practice every kind of impurity

As we think about these characteristics of life without Jesus we need to notice the key role that our thinking plays. In the same way we need to take notice of the significance our minds play in our new life in Christ. In verse 23 Paul states that we are to let the Spirit renew our thoughts and attitudes . This life change is impossible without Jesus.

**THROW OFF - PUT ON**

Paul brings us back to Jesus, the foundation. The old self, how we were before Jesus, is totally opposite from our new self. The things in our lives that do not reflect Jesus, but reflect our old self, must be thrown off. We become like Jesus!

**Read Ephesians 4:20-5:4, and identify the old/sinful nature we must “throw off” and the opposite a Christ-Like attitude we must “put on”.**

- Ephesians 4:22
  - Throw Off \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:23-24
  - Put On \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:25
  - Throw Off \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:25
  - Put On \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:26
  - Throw Off \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:26-27
  - Put On \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:28
  - Throw Off \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:28
  - Put On \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:29
  - Throw Off \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:29
  - Put On \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:31
  - Throw Off \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:32, 5:1-2
  - Put On \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:3-4
  - Throw Off \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:4
  - Put On \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 4:20 - 5:14 lists close to 20 reasons why we should change our attitudes and behaviors. Read each of the following and think about your own life, talk about how you can apply to “throwing off” and ”putting on”.**

- Ephesians 4:20: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:21: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:22: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:23: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:24: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:25: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:28: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:29: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:30: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:32: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:5: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:6: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:8: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:10: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:12: \_\_\_\_\_

## **WORTHY OF OUR CALLING**

In 4:1 Paul tells us to live a life worthy of our calling, in the following verses he breaks it down even more. Go through the verses below and learn what you are and who you are in Jesus.

- **Read Ephesians 4:24**
  - “Created to be like God”
    - Read Genesis 1:26-27
  - Our identity, our potential is to reflect the glory of God. Not to be God, but to be a reflection of Him. You can only reflect God by being in relationship with Him. In Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve sinned, they were refusing to embrace their potential human greatness, rejecting their roles of image-bearers. To reflect God requires relationship. We are like God only when we learn from God and choose to imitate Him.
  - Read the following, how do they relate?
    - Matthew 5:16
    - Matthew 5:43-48
    - 1 Corinthians 10:31

- 2 Corinthians 3:18
  - 1 Peter 2:9-12
- **Read Ephesians 4:25**
  - “Parts of the Same Body”
  - This concept that all Christians are members of one body is motivation to treat each other with respect and honor. Linking with the previous idea that we are created to be like God, Paul teaches that even such a small sin as telling a lie is outlawed by our calling. We are called to be like God; therefore, we should tell the truth.
  - Read the following, how do they relate?
    - 1 Corinthians 8:9-13;
    - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
    - 2 Corinthians 5:16
    - Galatians 6:1-3
- **Read Ephesians 4:30**
  - “Identified you as His own”
  - He has adopted us, called us His kids.
  - Read the following, how do they relate?
    - John 14:15-23
    - 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
    - Ephesians 1:13-14
  - When Christians act, speak and think in sinful ways, we are acting, speaking and thinking as if God does not dwell in us and we are still orphans.
    - Read Genesis 6:1-7.
- **Read Ephesians 5:1**
  - “You are His dear children”
  - Kids who love their dads want to be like their dads. Here Paul tells us to imitate our Father. He is loving, kind, compassionate, forgiving, humble, and a servant. So we should become all of these things.
  - Read the following, how do they relate?
    - Matthew 6:43-48
    - Philippians 2:1-5
    - Colossians 3:12-13
    - 1 John 4:7-21
- **Read Ephesians 5:3**
  - “God’s People”
  - To be 'holy' is to be set apart by God for God. The Bible teaches that God is a holy God. The idea behind the concept of holiness is "separation." It

comes from a word meaning "to separate or cut off." God is separate, or cut off, from everything that is sinful and evil-He cannot tolerate sin. So we too are to be His Holy people.

- Read John 17:15-16

- We belong to God. We have been set apart by him for his purposes. So, Paul says, because you are God's holy people there is a great range of words, attitudes and actions that are totally out of place and inappropriate. They belong to those who are disobedient, and they are the kinds of things for which God's wrath still falls on those who are not saved.

- **Read Ephesians 5:8**

- "People of Light"
- Jesus Christ is the light of the world
  - Read John 8:12
- He told his followers that they are the light of the world and should live like it.
  - Read Matthew 5:14-16
  - Read Colossians 1:13
- Paul teaches us that God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and caused us to stand in the kingdom of his Son.
- John has a strong message for those who claim to know God, yet continue to live lives characterized by darkness
- Read the following
  - 1 John 1:1:5-7
  - 1 John 2:8-11
- Paul's command here in Ephesians 5 is that our lives display what we are: children of light

## **Questions for further thought**

- What do you think it means in verse 17 to be hopelessly confused? What is intellectual pride? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18, how does this relate?
- Growth and change is a process, we are not magically made perfect when we are saved. Think back over the last year, how have your attitudes and actions changed? Are you growing?
- Anger, if not properly dealt with, turns to bitterness and destroys us from within. It then divides and separates us from being "one body". Are you angry with somebody right now? What can you do to resolve the differences?

- As children of the light, our actions should reflect our faith. Are you living your life above reproach? Does your life lived reflect God's goodness? Are you grieving the Holy Spirit with your actions, speech or attitudes?