

STUDY GUIDE 8
EPHESIANS 4:17-32



Living or Walking Worthy of our Calling in Christ, or How Shall We Live

As you start this study, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what God has said through Paul.

Note: Unity and maturity are twin goals for the church. Purity is essential.

In Ephesians 4:17-6:9 Paul is now presenting the life and morals that follow from membership in Christ's body, the church.

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 4:17-32 three times.

1. What is the main idea in this passage?
2. In verse 17 what does Paul "insist on" or "affirm together with the Lord" that the readers of Ephesians do?
3. Paul describes the thinking process of the Gentiles in verses 17-18. What 4 things are stated? What connection does "living" or "walking" have with this thinking process?

TO DIG DEEPER: The term "hardening" or "hardness" of their hearts is used in verse 18. Read Mark 3:5; Romans 11:7-8, and 2 Corinthians 3:14-16. The Greek word used here is "poros" which means marble or a callous. From these passages and from Ephesians 4:17-18 write out a definition for this term. Who is involved in this condition? From what does it result? What is the remedy?

DAY 2

1. Verse 19 states that "having lost all sensitivity" or "having become callous" refers to the hardening of their hearts. What 3 things have those Gentiles done as a result?

2. Verse 20 sets the contrast with “You, however” or “But you”. The readers of Ephesians are different – they know Christ. From verse 21 list two things involved in them knowing Christ.
3. In verse 21 who is the source of truth? See also John 14:6 and John 1:14.

DAY 3

1. In verse 22 what were they taught regarding their former life? Why?
2. Instead, what 2 things were they taught to do according to verses 23 and 24?
3. According to verse 24, what are three characteristics of the new self?

TO DIG DEEPER: Do a study of the “old self”. Look up Romans 6:6, 8:9, Galatians 5:16-26 and Colossians 3:3-8. Describe the “old self”
Now do a study of the “new self”. Look up Romans 6:4, 7:6, 12:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Colossians 3:10. Describe the “new self”.

DAY 4

1. The terms “put off” or “lay aside” and “put on” are a clothing metaphor. When a person accepts Christ they “put off” the old garment of the old lifestyle and “put on” the new garment of the new lifestyle which is Christ, Himself. These 2 verbs are past tense indicating a completed past action – this happened when the person accepted Christ – put their faith and trust in Him.
2. Verse 23 uses the verb “to be made new” or “be renewed”. It is a present infinitive verb indicating the need for ongoing action. What is to be made new? Read also Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 10:5. Why do you think it is so important to be continually having our minds renewed? So far this part of Ephesians associates what we think with how we _____.
3. Read verses 25-29. List each thing we are to “put off” and beside it state what we are to do instead.

TO DIG DEEPER: In verse 26 Paul combines 2 quotes from the Old Testament. Read Psalm 4:4 and Deuteronomy 24:15. Also read John 2:14-16, Matthew 5:22 and James 1:19-20. Summarize what you learn about anger. Now read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 and explain how holding on to anger gives the devil “foothold” or “opportunity” in our lives.

DAY 5

1. In verse 30 “And” what else are we not to do? Read Isaiah 63:10, Acts 7:51 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19. How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?
2. From verse 31, list 6 things we are to get rid of. Look each word up in a dictionary and write the meaning beside the word.
3. Now from verse 32, list 3 things we are to do. Note the relationships involved.

TO DIG DEEPER: We are to forgive others because God has forgiven us and just as He has forgiven us. Read Matthew 6:14-15, 18:35, Mark 11:25, Luke 11:4, 2 Corinthians 2:10 and Colossians 3:12,13. What does this forgiveness look like?

DAY 6

In Ephesians 4:17-32 we have seen that we are to have our thinking continually being renewed. This will result in changed behavior. We are active participants – we are to “put off, lay aside or get rid of” certain behaviors and to actively do other behaviors. Make a list of all these behaviors from verses 25-32. Prayerfully examine your own life. Which behavior(s) do you have the most difficulty with right now? What can you do to get rid of or to comply with that behavior? Are you willing to change that behavior? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be willing to change and to help you change, then do it.