

**A POSITIVE
CHRISTIAN
LIFE**

EPHESIANS 4:17-32

Ephesians 4:17-32

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Ephesians 4:17-32 - continued

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:17-32 - continued

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Introduction

A. Negatives in the mature Christian life

1. Walk not as other Gentiles (4:17)
2. Let not the sun go down on your wrath (4:26)
3. Let him that stole, steal no more (4:28)
4. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth (4:29)
5. Grieve not the Holy Spirit (4:30)

B. Has the Holy Spirit used these in your life?

Proverbs 23:7a

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:

Introduction

C. Three Truths

- 1. A negative life comes from a negative mind**
- 2. A positive life comes from a positive mind**
- 3. You will not have a positive life with a negative mind**

I. Think Right (4:23)

Ephesians 4:23

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

A. Renewed = Renovate/Take on a new mind

1. We are to put off the old man

2. Throw out the works of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

I. Think Right (4:23)

B. The Christian may neglect his mind

1. If he does, he may act like lost person

2. But he is urged not to do so

James 1:21-24

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

I. Think Right (4:23)

C. The danger of neglecting proper mind input and reaction

1. A downward spiral

2. We take actions that do not “stand up to the test”

2 Timothy 3:8

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Garbage in – Garbage out

I. Think Right (4:23)

D. Our minds need renewing every day

Titus 1:15-16

15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

II. Look Right (4:24)

Ephesians 4:24

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

A. The Christian is a paradox

1. He has the potential for failure

2. He has the old nature that never improves as long as he lives

Romans 7:23

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

II. Look Right (4:24)

B. He also has the Holy Spirit residing in him

**1. This places unlimited power at his disposal for
victory**

Ephesians 3:20

**Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that
worketh in us,**

**2. He has actually become a partaker of the divine
nature**

2 Peter 1:4

**Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious
promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine
nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world
through lust.**

II. Look Right (4:24)

B. He also has the Holy Spirit residing in him - continued

3. Christ is able to live through his body

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

C. He has the power that raised Christ from the dead

Philippians 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

II. Look Right (4:24)

D. He has all that he needs for victorious living

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

III. Do Right (4:28)

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

A. A unique purpose for working

B. Why do you work?

III. Do Right (4:28)

C. A better reason - To give to those in need

1. Proves our love

1 John 3:17-18

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

III. Do Right (4:28)

C. A better reason - To give to those in need - continued

2. Proves our faith

James 2:15-16

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

III. Do Right (4:28)

C. A better reason - To give to those in need - continued

3. Follows Christ's teachings

Acts 20:35

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

IV. Be Right (4:32)

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

IV. Be Right (4:32)

A. If you are not very kind, you are not very spiritual

2 Peter 1:7

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

B. Kindness that results in being tender to the needs of others

Romans 12:10

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

IV. Be Right (4:32)

C. Kindness that makes it easy to forgive

Mark 11:25

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

D. Kindness that demonstrates the love of Christ to others

Luke 6:35

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Are We...

Different

Mature

Ready for responsibility

Effective in Christian service

As long as the Lord lives in us

Proverbs 24:16

**For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up
again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.**