

**Ephesians Part 10:
The Dynamics of Change Part 1**
Ephesians 4:17-24



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March 19, 2017

*Now this I say and testify in the Lord,
that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do,
in the futility of their minds.*

¹⁸ *They are darkened in their understanding,
alienated from the life of God
because of the ignorance that is in them,
due to their hardness of heart.*

¹⁹ *They have become callous and
have given themselves up to sensuality,
greedy to practice every kind of impurity.*

²⁰ *But that is not the way you learned Christ!—
²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him,
as the truth is in Jesus,*

²² *to put off your old self,
which belongs to your former manner of life
and is corrupt through deceitful desires,*

²³ *and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,*

²⁴ *and to put on the new self,
created after the likeness of God
in true righteousness and holiness.*

Ephesians 4:17-24

Introduction: The Dynamics of Change

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1. Don't do "The Gentile Walk" (17-18)

*Now this I say and testify in the Lord,
that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do,
in the futility of their minds.*

¹⁸ *They are darkened in their understanding,
alienated from the life of God
because of the ignorance that is in them,
due to their hardness of heart.*

You must no longer walk as the Gentiles walk:

- a. Thinking that is futile, darkened and ignorant
 - *in the futility of their minds*
 - *darkened in their understanding*
 - *because of the ignorance that is in them*
 - a way of thinking that is blind to God's truth
- b. *alienated from the life of God*
 - Separation from God and his power to live
- c. *due to their hardness of heart*
 - The root problem is a hard heart
 - *...the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..." Hebrews 3:7-8*

¹⁹ *They have become callous and
have given themselves up to sensuality,
greedy to practice every kind of impurity.*

- d. *They have become callous*
 - *Callous*: unfeeling with regards to sin
- e. *They have given themselves up to sensuality*
 - *Sensuality* primarily refers to sexual immorality
- f. They are *greedy to practice every kind of impurity*
 - *Greedy to practice*: a lust for more sin – it doesn't satisfy!
 - *Impurity* includes sexual sin, but 'every kind of impurity' is broader in scope

The Gentile Walk: A Downward Spiral

- Hardness of heart causes
 - Futile thinking which causes
 - Alienation from God which causes
 - Callousness towards sin which causes
 - Sin and a lust for more

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2. Learning Jesus (v20-21)

²⁰ *But that is not the way you learned Christ!—*

²¹ *assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,*

a. *you learned Christ*

- Not just learning about Christ, but learning Christ personally

b. *you heard (about) him*

- You heard about him, and heard him personally

c. *you were taught in him*

- God's truth is taught in the context of Jesus

3. God's Three-Part Process for Change (22-24)

²² *to put off your old self,*

*which belongs to your former manner of life
and is corrupt through deceitful desires,*

²³ *and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,*

²⁴ *and to put on the new self,*

*created after the likeness of God
in true righteousness and holiness.*

You need all three steps in true transformation:

a. *to put off the old self*

- "Put off" is a phrase referring to removing clothing
- You put off your old self like a piece of dirty old clothing

b. *to be renewed in the spirit of your minds*

- True change is not just a change of behavior but a change of your mind from the world's thinking to God's thinking
- You encourage the renewal of your minds through repentance from sin, reading God's Word, and Prayer
- Repent = Gr. *metanoia* = Change of mind

c. *to put on the new self*

- "Put on" is a phrase referring to putting on clothing
- You put on the new self like fresh new clothing
 - *created after the likeness of God*
 - Your new self is created to be like God
 - *in true righteousness and holiness*
 - Your new self is righteous and holy
- You live according to your new identity

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Your Response

1. Ask God to renew your mind to think like He does. Pray and read His Word to help in the process! Repent of any sin in your life.

2. ***Will you receive salvation in Jesus: a free gift of God, by faith?***

- *Believe in Jesus, and His death and resurrection*
- *Repent of your sin and place your trust in Jesus*
- *Commit to Jesus as Lord of your life*

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3:23-24 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians Series: God's Purposes for You in Christ

March 19	Part 10: The Dynamics of Change Part 1
March 26	Guest: Aaron Naismith, Calvary Baptist Guelph
April 2	Part 11: The Dynamics of Change Part 2
April 9	Part 12: Walk as Children of the Light Part 1
April 16	Easter Sunday Message

Questions for Reflection

1. Describe the Gentile Walk. How do you see it in action today? (point 1)
2. How do we come to learn Christ? (point 2)
3. What is God's Three part change process (point 3)
4. What can you do to put yourself in a place where God will renew your mind?
5. Have you responded to the God's grace in faith and repentance, trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and eternal life? Why not do so today?

2 Cor. 6:2b *now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

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