

## How to Walk in this World

Ephesians 4: 17-24

9/08/02

### Intro

- Sergei Matyushenko here from Russia
- September 11 Memorial Service

.....  
Last week we heard from Paul that we should not walk the way the world walks and he gave us several reasons why we shouldn't. He said that their ways are futile because they are **darkened** in their understanding, there is **ignorance** in them and that they are **hardened** in their hearts.

Now, Paul is getting more and more specific about how we should walk in this world. In fact we do have to walk in this world; we live here. But Jesus said, "Be in the world, but do not be of the world."

The question is **how** to walk in this world; and here in these verses Paul gives more specific instruction.

### I. Put off the old self and put on the new self.

#### A. Why should we out off the old self?

Vs 22

- Because it is being corrupted (is in the process of decay, getting worse and worse).

**Illus – Have you ever seen someone after they have walked in the ways of the world a long time? It's always a sad sight. I remember going in to the Sheriff's office once because we were adopting a needed a signature from them.**

**There was a picture on the wall of a woman that had been repeatedly arrested and it showed in dramatic fashion the decay of the world.**

- NOTE: our old self is not redeemed; it is not going to go to heaven with us!!

**Illus – the picture here is that of clothes; take off the old clothes of this world, and put on the new clothes of Christ.**

#### B. Instead, we should put on the new self.

- Because it is created in the likeness of God.
- In righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- The putting off and putting on is a process and is a reflection of how we live in this world.

#### C. How do we put on new self?

- By being renewed in the spirit of the mind.
- Here he refers to the human spirit, not the Holy Spirit, rather it is the Holy Spirit that does the renewing, through the Word of God.

**Illus – we are what we eat. After Jesus had had that conversation with the woman at the well, the disciples offered Him food, but he said, "I have food to eat that you nothing about." Then he explained and said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent Me."**

**In another place Jesus quoted Moses in Deuteronomy and said, "Man does not live by bread alone but by ever Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**

### II. These are the things, therefore to put off, and put on.

Vs 25-32

- #### A. Put off falsehood and speak the truth to each other.

- Lying is what people do when they are living a lie and want others to think they aren't.
- It's what people do that live in the darkness.

B. Set aside the kind of anger that produces sin.

- The anger of man does not bring about the righteousness of God.
- Sometimes people think that their intentions justify their means (methods).
- Paul is saying not to sin in our anger. So he says two things about anger;
  - **Do not let the sun go down on it.** This is to say – keep short accounts so bitterness does not build up.
  - **Do not give the devil a foothold.** This means, do not allow the devil to have a beachhead in your life. Satan will seize the opportunity.

**Illus- How do I know if anger is sin? If it's about you, it's probably sin. Jesus was angry when it was about others.**

- He was angry at the Pharisees when they opposed his healing of men on the Sabbath.
- He was angry when the disciples kept the children away from him.
- He was angry at the cruelty of the devil when he was at the tomb of Lazarus.
- He was angry at the shameless greed of the money changers in the temple.
- Yet he did not become angry when they were cruel to Him.

- C. Put aside taking (stealing); work hard, so you will be able to give to others.
- D. Put aside words that create hurt; only speak words that are useful for edification.

<b>III. May we not grieve the Holy Spirit.</b>
--

A. Put away a bitter heart.

- Such as wrath, anger, clamoring, slander, and malice.

B. Be tenderhearted.

- Forgiving each other, in the same way that Christ forgives us.

<b>Conclusion</b>
-------------------

**Verse 32 gives us a theme we can build our lives on. It says, *Forgive as Christ has forgiven you.***

**Why should we treat others with such godly ways? Because we have been treated this way by God.**