

Ephesians 4:17-24

"The New Man"

I. How are Christians *NOT* supposed to act (live) 4:1?

A. **Not like the rest of the world** (Or. Gr. for "*the rest of the Gentiles*" = rest of the nations) – 2 Cor. 6:17; 1 Pet. 4:1-3. **How does the rest of the world walk?**

- 1.) V.17 – in the futility of their mind. **Christians are to think differently.**
 - a.) **Futility** Or. Gr. = vanity = hollow; worthless; useless. An emptiness as to results = a pointless endeavor. **Like a screen door on a submarine!**
 - i.) *There are a lot of futile mentalities in the world today; both outside and inside the church – Col. 2:8.*
 - ii.) *The most useless, worthless, hollow endeavors anyone can take up is something they deem worthy that God sees as frivolous.*
 - iii.) The only thing worse than being unsuccessful in the things important to man, is being successful in the things God sees as unimportant.
 - iv.) ***"Our inventions are wont to be pretty toys, which distract our attention from serious things. We have improved means to unimproved ends."* – Henry David Thoreau**
 - v.) ***"Our world today has a great deal of knowledge but very little wisdom."* – Warren Wiersbe**
- 2.) V.18 – with a darkened (deprived of light) understanding – Rom. 1:20-22, 28. The Light they are deprived of & need most is what they have rejected: Jesus – John 3:17-21.
- 3.) V.18 – alienated (separated; estranged) from God.
 - a.) What separates us from God? – Sin! Is. 59:2 – the lifestyles, worldviews, opinions, mentalities of the world.
 - b.) *The farther away we get from God the more clouded our minds become!* – **Is. 26:3; James 4:8** – double minded = vacillating = wavering; indecisive.
- 4.) V.18 – internal ignorance – 1 Pet. 1:13-16.
- 5.) V.18 – blindness (stupidity; hardness; callousness) of heart.
 - a.) **All of these things work backwards:**
 - i.) **Their heart is hardened because of their ignorance because of their distance from God because their understanding has been darkened by the futility of their mind.**
 - b.) And what is the cause of all this?
- 6.) V.19 – past feeling = apathy; callousness; numbness
 - a.) *A natural result of futile thinking, darkened understanding, separation from God, internal ignorance and a blind heart: we become numb to the things of God altogether.*
 - b.) *Part of this is the natural consequences of sin & another part is God giving people what they constantly pursue* – Rom. 1:28; 1 Tim. 4:1-2.
- 7.) V.19 – self-surrendering to sin: "*given themselves over to lewdness*" – Gr. = unrestrained immorality; lacking remorse.
- 8.) V.19 – self-centered – "*to work all uncleanness with greediness*"
 - a.) *The main objective behind sinful living/choices is self-gratification, in spite of who it may hurt or the consequences/impact on others* – 2 Cor. 5:14-15.