

Ephesians 4:17-24
“The New Man”

II. How are Christians supposed to act/live? What is the “new man”?

- A. V.20 – like Christ – Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet.1:16; 2:21-24
- B. V.21 – in accordance with what you have *heard and been taught* = **the truth according to Jesus (God’s word – Luke 24:27)**:
- 1.) V.22 – Put off the old man & former conduct that grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.
- a.) **Put off** = cast off; put away (active faith) – Heb. 12:1; Gal. 2:20; 5:24; Rom. 6:5-6
- b.) **Grows corrupt** = spoiled; defiled; withered
- i.) *The old sinful man & conduct never gets better; it grows worse & eventually leads to death* – James 1:14-16; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 14:12.
- c.) According to the **deceitful lusts** = a craving for what is forbidden; an irrational desire for pleasure.
- i.) *The deception(s) of our sinful desires are many: it’s what we need; there won’t be any consequences; it won’t hurt anyone else; it’s not that big of a deal; it’s not as sinful as it appears or people/God say it is.*
- ii.) *****So, the old, sinful man & lifestyles continue to grow deeper in a defiled, corrupt, spoiled condition while convincing/deceiving us into thinking otherwise.**
- iii.) **This is what God tells us to throw away and for good reason!!!**
- 2.) V.23 – Be **renewed** (readjust; realign) in the spirit of your mind.
- a.) *How do you renew, readjust or realign your thinking? By aligning it with God & His word!* – Rom. 12:2
- 3.) V.24 – Put on the new man which God created according to His standards of righteousness & holiness – 2 Cor. 5:17, 21.
- a.) **Put on** = to sink into clothing; i.e. we’re to dress ourselves in the righteousness & holiness of God!
- b.) In order to put on the new we have to put off the old – V. 31; Rom. 13:12-14; Col. 3:8-17.
- c.) ***Too often the “new man” many Christians put on/dress themselves in is limited to/defined by the human standard of righteousness & holiness:***
- i.) We **interpret** Scripture through corrupted, human standards/understanding & **apply** it through the same; typically when it’s comfortable or convenient.
- ii.) External appearance vs. internal transformation: We give the right answers; put on the proper appearances; desire the newness of life God offers, but our Christianity has limits:
- aa.) We’re only going to forgive on our terms.
- ab.) We’re only going to repent of what **we** deem sinful.
- ac.) We’re only going to obey the Scriptures (or the interpretations) we agree with.
- ad.) We’re not going to listen to or accept rebuke or correction.
- ae.) We’re only willing to give so much and go so far with God Himself.
- af.) We seek self-centered, human justification rather than God led sanctification.
- iii.) ***“The person who professes to be a Christian and is not careful about that which is right is a disgrace to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ”. – H.A. Ironside***