

The Believer's Walk In Contrast

Ephesians 4:17–24

Introduction:

In describing Gentile or pagan conduct (Ephesians 4:17–19), Paul used the expression, “the old man” (verse 22). In describing Christian conduct Paul used the expression, “the new man” (verses 22–24). Paul described believer's walk in contrast with the Gentile or pagan walk.

Message:

1. The walk of the old man (4:17–19)
 - a. In the vanity of the mind (verse 17). This is living frivolously, without eternity in view, refusing to honor God. (See Romans 1:21; also used of idolatry in Acts 14:15.)
 - b. In blindness or hardness of heart (verse 18). Like Pharaoh, this condition is the result of rejecting the knowledge of God (Mark 3:5; Romans 1:28).
 - c. In outrageous behavior (verse 19). Lasciviousness or indecent behavior comes from a heart that has rejected God (Mark 7:21–23).
2. The walk of the new man (4:22–24)
 - a. Puts off former corrupt lifestyle (verse 22). This includes the sins of the flesh (2 Corinthians 7:1; Colossians 3:5) and sins of the spirit (Colossians 3:8).
 - b. Is renewed in the spirit (verse 23) by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). When the human spirit is under the control of the Holy Spirit, living is different.
 - c. Puts on new man created in righteousness (verse 24). When the new man or Christ is put on (Romans 13:14), He creates righteousness and holiness. (See 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21.)

Conclusion:

The walk of the believer should be as different from the world's as Israel's was from the Gentile nations when she was living close to God.

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