

Walk in the Spirit

Ephesians 4:17-32

Lesson 17

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What specific lesson or thought did you receive from the study last week?
2. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul declared, *Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* Our life in Christ is to have a stark contrast to our former way of life before we knew Him. Our old life was marked by *futility, ignorance, and lying*; our new life now has purpose, wisdom, and truth.

In Ephesians 4:17-32 Paul exhorted the believers to *no longer walk* as they did before they knew Christ. Paul then contrasted the old behavior with the new behavior in Christ. Read the passages below and highlight any phrases that minister to you:

- a. Ephesians 4:17-19
 - b. Ephesians 4:20-24
 - c. Ephesians 4:25-29
 - d. Ephesians 4:30-32
3. In preparation for your study this week, write a prayer asking God to renew your mind by His Spirit.

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
Ephesians 4:23

SECOND DAY: Read Ephesians 4:17-19

1. In light of Paul's previous exhortation to *walk worthy of the calling* (Ephesians 4:1), what did he *testify* that the Ephesians should *no longer* do? Ephesians 4:17a
 - a. Paul made it clear that this exhortation came from the authority of the Lord. Why do you think he emphasized this?

2. According to Ephesians 4:17b, how do the *rest of the Gentiles walk*?
 - a. What does this convey to you?

3. Use Ephesians 4:18 to describe the *mind* of the *Gentiles*.
 - a. What do you think was at the heart of their condition?

 - b. Link this description with Romans 1:21-23 and share your thoughts.

4. What does Ephesians 4:19a state about the *Gentiles*?
 - a. As a result, how do they conduct themselves? Ephesians 4:19b
 - (1) How does this behavior compare to Romans 1:28-31?

 - (2) Share your overall impression of the unbeliever's condition.

5. Why was it important that the Ephesians *no longer walk* as they once did?
 - a. Why should your *walk* have a sharp contrast to those without Jesus?

THIRD DAY: Read Ephesians 4:20-24

1. In light of Ephesians 4:18 what contrast did Paul emphasize in Ephesians 4:20?
2. So how *indeed* have you *learned* Christ? Ephesians 4:21a
 - a. Use Luke 6:47-48 to comment on the importance of this.
3. Where is *truth* found? Ephesians 4:21b
 - a. Why is it essential to keep this in mind? See also John 14:6.
4. As those who have *learned Christ*, what are we to *put off*? Ephesians 4:22a
 - a. Why are we to do this? Ephesians 4:22b
 - (1) Describe an aspect of the *old man* you must personally *put off*. See also Luke 9:23.
5. From the verses below comment on being *renewed in the Spirit of your mind* (Ephesians 4:23):
 - a. Romans 12:2
 - b. 2 Corinthians 10:5b
 - c. 1 Peter 1:13
 - (1) Use Proverbs 23:7a to grasp why this is crucial.
6. Use Ephesians 4:24 to answer the following questions:
 - a. What is to be *put on*?
 - b. How was this man *created*?
 - (1) Why is the *new man* superior to the *old man*?
 - (2) Link this with 2 Corinthians 4:16 and share your thoughts.

FOURTH DAY: Read Ephesians 4:25–29

1. In Ephesians 4:25–29 Paul contrasted the old patterns of life with the new way to *walk* in Christ. Fill in the chart below to underscore the differences:

Ephesians 4	Old Way	New Way	Reason
verse 25			
verses 26–27			
verse 28			
verse 29			

2. Why should a believer *put off* the old ways and *put on* the new?
 - a. Where does the power for this new lifestyle come from? See also Ephesians 3:20 and Philippians 4:13.

3. Ephesians 4:26–27 in the NLT reads, *Don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.* How is this a warning to you? See also Hebrews 12:15.

4. Link the instruction of Ephesians 4:29a with James 3:5–10. What do you see?
 - a. Use Proverbs 4:23 and Matthew 12:34b–35 to find a solution for a *mouth* problem?

 - b. *Edification* means to *build up* or *encourage*. Share a time you were edified by another believer.
 - (1) How would you *impart grace* to another believer?

FIFTH DAY: Read Ephesians 4:30–32

1. Answer the following questions from Ephesians 4:30 NLT: *And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption:*
 - a. What are we *not* to do? Ephesians 4:30a
 - b. Review the chart on the Fourth Day to cite the behavior that causes *sorrow to God's Holy Spirit*.
 - c. Why do we *not* want to bring *sorrow to God's Holy Spirit*? Ephesians 4:30b

2. Use Ephesians 4:31 to list and briefly describe the things we are to *put away*:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - (1) Why should a Christian *put* these *away*?
 - (2) How would you suggest putting these *away*?

3. Use Ephesians 4:32a to list and comment on what should characterize a Christian:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - (1) Share a way to incorporate these into our lives.

4. According to Ephesians 4:32b, why are we to forgive?
 - a. Use Matthew 18:21–35 to comment on the importance of forgiveness.

 - b. How is Jesus an example to you of forgiveness?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Use the following verses from Ephesians 4:17–32 to highlight the characteristics of:

a. *the old man*

(1) verses 17b–19

(2) verse 22

(3) verse 31

b. *the new man*

(1) verses 23–24

(2) verse 25

(3) verse 26

(4) verse 28

(5) verse 29

(6) verse 32

2. Why do you desire to *put on the new man*?

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32