

# EPHESIANS 4 vs 17

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Paul reminds us to walk worthily... in a worthy manner of the high calling of God; and he knows we will never come to the perfect man, until we come to the perfect world... and that ain't in this life. Here, we will never even get near that ideal, but we will in the one to come... so keep on walking!

<sup>17</sup> **Therefore, I say and testify** / and witness, **marturomai**; and it's not shouting: Give me a witness! But it is: **I'm ready to die, to martyr**, to give up my life...not with pride jumping around bringing attention to myself! In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul tells us he was fighting the wild beasts at Ephesus. And in our faith-walk where we live, there are wild beasts willing to tear us apart in a minute. Some say: they want to live for Christ. Paul was ready to die for Him!



**Therefore, I say and testify in the Lord,**

**that from now on, do not walk as other Gentiles, in the vanity of their mind** / with empty minds = those who have stopped thinking about what is real; they are beyond an oops! not thinking clearly. Paul says, [If Christ is not risen from the dead, then our faith is vain](#) -- 1 Corinthians 15; and we're fools; his violent conversion and persecutions, being left for dead is meaningless **IF** Christ is not risen from the dead.

Paul says, the philosophy of the world would be correct: **Eat, drink, and be merry** because tomorrow we die. **IF**... Christ is not risen from the dead!

Be like the morbidly obese stuffing their face with burgers and fries, and fried chicken and bags of junk food; downing dozens of donuts and gallons of sodas all day -- who obviously have no taste for fine dining.

Or go ahead, be like the binge drinker... guzzling their favorite booze and brews; and moonshine: burping and puking on everyone -- who obviously have no taste for fine wine.

And how about that hypocritical statement? Friends don't let friends drive drunk! Sure they do! Every year thousands are murdered, due to those celebrating friendless folk; but whatever! Eat, drink and be merry; because tomorrow we die.

And it's all evidence that people don't really believe Christ Jesus rose from the dead. But we're not here to thank my God we're not like others... because even in the church world there are... the spiritually obese -- those always learning, and never coming to the knowledge of the truth -- evidence of empty minds.

Paul says, Don't walk that way.

<sup>18</sup> **their understanding darkened being alienated to the life of God** / made strangers, foreigners, that's our generation! Those who push away knowledge of the kingdom of God, lose the key to enter into life, the kind that God created... leading to life and joy and peace eternal,

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**through the ignorance** / the word is: **agnoia**; where comes: **agnostic**, the not-knowing people; who do not exercise their minds and hearts in the ways of God and life in His kingdom. Some people think it is fashionable to be agnostic -- not knowing. But as Dr. Dallas Willard illustrated in this simple conversation:

What time is dinner?  
I don't know, I'm agnostic.  
Dr. Willard said, Well, go find out!

Paul says here is the result of incorrect ideas and images and information about what is real, because what is real is: the kingdom of God...

**being alienated to the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them,**

**because of the hardness of their heart:**

**<sup>19</sup> who being past feeling** / no longer feeling, trapped by a superficial existence; stuck in anger, addiction, or depression... due to faulty patterns of thinking... believing the advertisements of the world,

**have given themselves to lewdness** / this word is: **paradidomi**... they have betrayed themselves and surrendered themselves...they are lewd, obscene, vulgar and out of control; they have no boundaries; they have surrendered to advertisers -- to folks paid millions; they have abandoned themselves;

**to work all uncleanness with greediness** / they will do whatever... to practice and perfect their deeds of unsatisfied greed, to experience any thrill no matter how cheap, violent, seductive, or destructive.

**<sup>20</sup> But you are not so, having learned from Christ** / Paul says, because you have learned Christ who takes His students to school daily to learn His instructions; His lessons and His ways!

**<sup>21</sup> if so you heard Him, and have been taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus;**

And what is it they have learned?

**<sup>22</sup> that you put off concerning the former behavior** / here Paul reminds us: **DIE daily** to our old behavior that identifies and defines each of us; and speaks volumes about all of us.

**of the worn-out old man, which is rotting according to the deceitful desires**

/ the word is: **epithumia**; it means: **strong desires**. **There is nothing wrong to have strong desires**. Jesus had strong desire to eat the Passover with His disciples; Paul had strong desire to see those in Thessalonica; but those strong desires were not **deceiving** desires, believing false images, ideas and information sold by the world.

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<sup>23</sup> **and be renewed** / this word is only used here: **ananeoomai** -- **ana neo** =. again young; again new, **again fresh**; the middle voice means: this action is something for our own benefit;

**be refreshed in the spirit of your mind** / this is more about what we know; not about how we feel; feelings come and go. The obvious answer... we all want to hear to the question: can you pilot the airplane... is not: well... I feel I can; **I'd like to think I can**; rather, we hope to hear them say: **yes, I know!**

Paul reminds us also... **LIVE daily**; replace old images, vain ideas, and fallacious information... with new patterns of thinking. Jesus, sent by his Father... was the greatest Thinker who thought correctly; so learn what He said. 700 Years ago, John Wycliffe discovered and already said: **Jesus is a man's best teacher!**

<sup>24</sup> **and that you put on the new man,**

**who following after God is created in rightness and in holy truth** / doing things the right way... God's way, which is a very loving way, always securing the good and welfare of His people. Jesus, the night He was betrayed prayed for those with Him: Father set them apart by Your Word. Your Word is truth. So, we're living **and** dying daily... and we ought to ask ourselves: what am I putting off? And what am I putting on? To the Corinthians Paul simply said: Put on Christ

<sup>25</sup> **Why say this? putting away lying, speak truth everyone with his neighbor, for we are members one of another** / start there! That is simple enough isn't it? Something we all can work on and do, every man, woman and child -- Yep! To **speak truth**... means: they have to be taught truth... to learn what is true about God and His kingdom. That is something we all can work on.

<sup>26</sup> **Be angry** / what?! Be angry?! Well, that's good... apparently there are things to be angry about; a loving mother or father seeing their child abused... should be angry. And did you notice? It's a command. Yes, Sir!

**Be angry! and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath:**

<sup>27</sup> **nor give place to the devil.**

<sup>28</sup> **Let him who stole steal no more:**

**but rather let him labor, working with his own hands what is good, that he give to one who has need** / as God did on page one Genesis all He created was good, and it was intended for His people.

<sup>29</sup> **Let no rotting words proceed from your mouth,**

**but what is good for building up that it graciously serves the hearers.**

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<sup>30</sup> **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God** / the Spirit was sent to help those who call on the Lord, so don't ignore Him; we can do this with His help; He will not do it without us; and we cannot do it without Him. We will never see the Spirit or the Father – **They are Spirit**, but don't wonder if He is there; He has been ready to help for 2,000 years; respectfully welcome Him as you would welcome Jesus... if the Lord was standing next to you,

**in whom you are sealed to the day of redemption.**

<sup>31</sup> **take away all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor** / take away all poison; and rowdy brawling; throw it all down, and continue discarding it all, until you win the boxing match,

**and evil speaking** / **blasphemia**; lightly, rudely, mindlessly speaking God's name,

**put away from you with all malice** / take it away; throw it down... all **kakia**, all that is evil and crappy and full of malicious motives; malice is the antithesis of Love... don't expect the Spirit of God to participate in our devious behaviors and hateful agendas. If Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil -- and He did; then the Holy Spirit hasn't come for coffee and chitchat; take all malice away; throw it down:

And here's another command...

<sup>32</sup> **But be kind one to another, compassionate, forgiving one another** / become like a useful kinfolk; and did I hear: Yes, Sir! Huh? / the word is: **charizomai**; to give graciously and show favor; freely giving; grace giving yourselves... Paul just said... that it graciously serves the hearers; now he adds,

**freely giving; grace giving yourselves...**

**even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you / has freely given grace to you**

/ as much as God our Father in Christ Jesus has forgiven / has freely given grace to you What?!

In other words, He amazingly graced us...how about we amazingly grace others?!

It's a command. Was that a: Yes, Sir?

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[My Chains are gone](#) | [In Christ Alone](#)

[Israeli Band : Psalm 150](#) | [Fibonacci in Nature; The Code of Life](#)