



WORD FOR LIFE CHURCH MINISTRIES

IN CHRIST: BELIEVING AND LIVING BECAUSE OF JESUS
a study of Ephesians

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Rev. Larrin Robertson
Pastor-Teacher



Ephesians 4:17-5:2

In Christ: Believing and Living Because of Jesus

When we read Ephesians 4:17 with 4:1 in mind we can see that this next section of the letter answers the question that guides the writing for the final three chapters of the letter: *How should belief in Jesus Christ shape the lives of believers?*

Themes

Chapter: Strengthened by the Gospel | *Section:* Living as believers in Christ.

Reflection Questions: How has being a Christian influenced you? What character traits or qualities are you still trusting God to help you put away? What character traits or qualities are you still trusting God to help you develop?

Key Term

- *Put away* (v. 22, 25, [31]) → to lay off or aside, to stow away, to renounce/remove from oneself. Contemporary language would suggest that something has been “given up.” Context determines the strength/severity of usage.

Lesson Outline

Bible study note: It is important to read the Bible as instructive, liberative, and life-giving even in areas where Scripture is prohibitive. Sometimes the prescription is abstention and/or prevention.

I. Ephesians 4:17-24 – Make room for spiritual growth.

“You Gentiles” must not live any longer as Gentiles. Notice how the Gospel and one’s understanding of who Jesus is should influence the beliefs and activities of Christians. This does not come about by happenstance. There are some intentional ways of thinking and being that give shape to the developing/maturing believer.

A. ***Out with the old (17-20).*** How to know that you are clearing out the old to make room for the new:

- You are making _____.
- You are increasing in _____.
- You are living in _____.
- You are growing in _____.

B. ***In with the new (21-24).*** What it means to embrace the message of the Gospel and live in Christ:



- Evidence the _____ of the Gospel.
- Do away with your former _____.
- _____ your mind.
- Dress in the garment of God: _____ and _____.

NOTES: _____

II. Ephesians 4:25-32 – Practical suggestions for being and living in Christ

Having created space for spiritual growth, it is necessary to fill up the areas of your life. Character and qualities that marked your life before Christ must be replaced by character and qualities that mark life in Christ.

What to do	Why do it
A. Tell the truth	_____
B. Anger management	_____
C. Live with integrity	_____
D. Guard your tongue	_____
E. Let the Holy Spirit flourish	_____

NOTES: _____

III. Ephesians 5:1-2 – If it becomes a bit overwhelming, remember this...

The immensity of transformation can be overwhelming. This can happen when we start viewing life through the lens of rules. These two verses set forth two principles that everyone can grasp and that will help us live as believers in Christ.

A. **Be like God** (Like Father, Like Child). Up to this chapter, how has God been presented as suggestive of how we ought to live and be?

- Honorable (1:3)
- Giving (1:3; 2:8)
- Providential (1:4, 10; 2:10; 3:9-11; 4:30)
- Welcoming (1:5, 10; 2:18-22)
- Gracious (various)
- Forgiving, Redeemer (1:7, 14; 2:4-6, 16; 3:15; 4:32)
- Powerful for others (1:19; 3:16-21)

B. ***Live in Love.*** To profess Jesus is Lord is to receive His love. His redeeming love must be our theme. Such love is best seen in two ways:

- A _____ of self. _____
- An _____ to God. _____

NOTES: _____
