

The New Man Like God

TEXT: Eph. 4:17 – 5:2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Ch. 1 – CHRIST'S** PART IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION.
- B. FROM THEIR, PAUL DISCUSSES THE **CHURCH**, ITS PLACE AND NATURE.
- C. FROM THIS POINT HE DISCUSSES THE CHARACTER AND CONDUCT OF THE **INDIVIDUAL** AND HOW IT IS EFFECTED BY THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION.

I. WE ARE TO WALK NO LONGER AS THE GENTILES (vs. 17-19).

- A. IN THE **VANITY OF THEIR MIND** – TRUSTING IN THEIR OWN INTELLECT.
 1. Felt wisdom was the answer to all spiritual questions (**1 Cor. 1:21-25**).
 2. They thought they had that wisdom (**Rom. 1:22**).
 3. the wise man is the one who realizes his foolishness (**1 Cor. 3:18**).
- B. THEY WERE **DARKENED IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING** (**1 Cor. 2:14**).
- C. **ALIENATED** FROM THE LIFE OF GOD (**Eph. 2:1; 12**).
- D. WHY? BECAUSE OF **IGNORANCE ó HARDNESS** OF HEART (**Rom 1:20-26**).
- E. CHARACTER MANIFESTED IN **GROSS IMMORALITY** (**Rom. 1:26-32**).

II. BUT YE DID NOT SO LEARN CHRIST – PAST vs. PRESENT (vs. 20-24).

- A. IF THEY LEARNED TRUTH IN CHRIST **THEY WOULDN'T LIVE THIS WAY**.
- B. THE **RESULT OF LEARNING THE TRUTH** IN CHRIST (vs. 22-24).
 1. **Put away the old man** [former manner of life]. This man was growing more and more corrupt in sin and being deceived (**Col. 3:5, 9**).
 2. That ye be **renewed in the spirit** of your mind (**Rom. 12:2**).
 3. **Put on the new man** that after God was created in holiness and righteousness of truth [revealed in the truth of the gospel] (**Col. 3:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:17**).
 4. Meaning of the analogy:
 - a. Man was created in the **image of God** [image & character] (**Gen. 1:26**).
 - b. **Sin mars the image** – no longer the same in character.
 - c. **Through Christ we are like God again** – no sin – holy and righteous.

III. MANIFESTATION OF THE NEW MAN IS SEEN IN ACTIONS (vs. 25-32).

- A. WE ARE **NOT TO LIE** ANYMORE (vs. 25; **Rev. 21:8**).
- B. WE ARE TO **CONTROL OUR TEMPERS** (vs. 26-27).
 1. Be reconciled as soon as possible (**Matt. 5:23-24**).
 2. Uncontrolled anger is the tool of the devil (**Rom. 12:18-21**).
- C. THIEVES ARE TO **STOP STEALING**(vs 28).
 1. Alternative – WORK (**2 Thess. 3:10**).
 2. To provide for his own and those who are in need (**1 Tim. 5:8; Gal. 6:10**).
- D. **STOP SPEAKING CORRUPT THINGS** (vs. 29; **Eph. 5:3-5**).
 1. Speak that which builds up.

2. Give grace to those that hear.
- E. **GRIEVE NOT THE SPIRIT** –BY OUR DISOBEDIENCE (**vs. 30**).
 1. Christians are sealed by the Spirit (**1:13**).
 2. Our seal is gone if we grieve him.
- F. CHANGE IS FINALLY MANIFESTED IN OUR **ATTITUDE TOWARD EACH OTHER** (**vs. 31-32**).

IV. AS CHILDREN OF GOD, IMITATE HIM (5:1-2).

- A. THIS MEANS TO **WALK IN LOVE** (**1 John 4:19**).
- B. OUR LOVE IS TO **BE LIKE CHRIST'S**:
 1. Love moved him to sacrifice himself (**John 15:13**).
 2. We are to sacrifice ourselves to his will (**Gal. 2:20**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. **CHRISTIANS ARE A CHANGED PEOPLE.**
- B. **HIS WALKS NO LONGER IN THE VANITY OF HIS MIND, BUT BY WHAT HE HAS LEARNED IN CHRIST.**

WHAT MUST WE DO?