



# IN EPHESIANS

## Lesson #37

### Being Who You Are

#### (PART 1)

(Ephesians 4:17-24)

#### IMPORTANT “Therefore’s”

- There are 11 “therefore’s” in chapters 4-6.
- Each of them is IMPORTANT.
- Chapter 1 – BECAUSE you have been so blessed by the Lord. . .
- Chapter 2 – BECAUSE God saved you by His grace and sent Christ to be our peace with God and has reconciled us to Himself. . .
- Chapter 3 – BECAUSE Jews and Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the same promises in Christ . . .
- **THEREFORE THIS IS HOW YOU ARE LIVE!**
- (Ephesians 4:1) **THEREFORE** walk worthy of your calling.

#### AT REBIRTH - CONVERSION

- A sinner who is a slave to Satan, the world, and his own lusts and desires is RE-CREATED into a NEW creature. (Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:17) His nature is completely changed. Everything is NEW.
- The NEW creature is NO LONGER a slave to Satan, sin, or the world.
  - ★ Sin no longer has dominion over him/her and he/she no longer sins but now practices righteousness. (Romans 6:11-14; 1 John 3:1-10; James 4:7)
  - ★ EVERYONE born again overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4)

#### Historical Context

- Ephesus was probably the most evil, wicked city of Asia Minor.
- Ephesus was a center of pagan worship with her Temple of Artemis and steep in magic/demonic trades. All kinds of sexual corruption were a part of life.
- Four hundred meters around the Temple was an asylum for criminals.

- Ancient philosophers wrote that Ephesus was “the darkness of vileness . . . The morals were lower than animals and the inhabitants of Ephesus were fit only to be drowned.”
- In the midst of all this corruption/darkness/vileness God called out persons to be His own special people. (1 Peter 2:9)

#### THEREFORE, Do Not Walk as the Rest of Gentiles (Eph 4:17-19)

- (v. 17) NOTICE, Paul speaks with authority, “This I say” and says that he is only testifying what the Lord says.
- (v. 17) DO NOT “**LIVE**” as the people of the world (Gentiles is ἔθνος ethnos {eth'-nos} – pagan, unbelieving nations)
  - ★ Christians, Jew and Gentile, are members of the same nation. (1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:19)
  - ★ As members of ONE NATION, its citizens have the same traditions, customs, and laws. They serve their ONE KING.
- (1 Peter 4:1-4) Peter echoes Paul’s words about Gentiles.
- Christians NOW live to do the will of God! (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 2:15-17)
- SPECIFICALLY . . .
  - ① “in the futility of their mind”
    - ★ “futility” is ματαιότης (mataiotes) meaning “vanity”; “emptiness”; “amounting to nothing”
    - ★ Christians and non-Christians think differently.
    - ★ God hands unbelievers over to a “debased” mind. (Romans 1:28)
    - ★ Christianity is about KNOWING the TRUTH. God gives His children “the mind of Christ”. (1 Corinthians 2:16)
      - ☆ Christians first KNOW then FEEL, then DO.
    - ★ REPENTANCE is μετάνοια (metanoia) which literally means, “a change of mind”! God, by His grace, changes the mind, which in turn inflames the emotions, which move the will.
    - ★ A life without God is meaningless and empty.
  - ② “their understanding darkened being alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them”. (See Rom 1:21)
    - ☆ Unbelievers **cannot** understand the things of God **because** they do not have the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
    - ☆ Understanding is a gift of God’s grace **given** NOT offered by God. (1 John 5:20; Acts 16:14; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; 1 John 2:20; Matthew 13:11; Luke 24:45)

☆ “being alienated from the life of God” – Unbelievers remain “DEAD” in their trespasses and sins. Their minds are DEAD, their hearts are STONE, and their wills in bondage to the world, Satan, and sin. THERE MUST FIRST BE LIFE BEFORE THERE CAN BE UNDERSTANDING.

③ “because of the blindness of their heart” – “blindness” is πώρωσις porosis {po'-ro-sis} meaning “covering with a callus”; “hardness”; “obstrusiveness of mental discernment”; “dulled perception” – God takes this hardness/blindness and gives a NEW HEART. (Ezekiel 36:26-27) Read Romans 1:21-22

☆ Satan blinds sinners to the truth. (2 Corinthians 4:4-6)

④ (v. 19) “being past feeling” – morally hardened! Unbelievers give themselves over to lewdness (ἀσέλγεια aselgeia {as-elg'-i-a} “unbridled lust, excess, absence of all moral restraint) to work (ἐργασία ergasia {er-gas-ee'-ah} “make it one’s business”) all uncleanness (“impurities”) with greediness (“covetousness”).

★ This GREEDINESS becomes one’s god. (Colossians 3:5)

★ Read 1 Peter 2:10-12.

★ Read Romans 1:24, 26-27, 28-31, 32

### **BUT You Have Not Learned Christ** (Ephesians 4:20-24)

- “**BUT**” introduces a stark CONTRAST between a BELIEVER and an UNBELIEVER. (See 2 Corinthians 6:14-16)
- A believer has NO FELLOWSHIP with LAWLESSNESS. Believers practice RIGHTEOUSNESS. (1 John 3:1-10)
- A believer has NO COMMUNION with DARKNESS. Believers are LIGHT and walk in the LIGHT! (Ephesians 5:6-11; 1 John 1:6-7)
- A believer has NO ACCORD with Belial. Believers are IN CHRIST and worship GOD. (See 1 Corinthians 10:20-21)
- A believer has NO PART with an unbeliever. Believers have ETERNAL LIFE which is found only IN CHRIST. (1 John 5:11-13)
- (v. 21) ALL Christians have “heard Christ and have been taught by Christ.” This is the CALL of God to salvation.
- (v. 22) ALL Christians have PUT OFF the “old creation”. (2 Cor 5:17)
- (v. 23) ALL Christians are BEING RENEWED in SPIRIT of their mind”. (Romans 12:1-2)
- (v. 24) ALL Christians have PUT ON the “new creation” which was created (re-created) by God in righteousness and true holiness.