

You Then...You Now

Please re-read Ephesians chapters 1-3!!!!

Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...

Once we begin to appreciate the amazing things God did for us in Christ (Ephesians 1-3), it will begin a transformation (a new creation) from the inside out. Transformed attitudes, behavior, speech and relationships are the fruit of God's Spirit working mightily in the inner man.

God's new creation:

- 2:10 – workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works
- 2:15 – to create in Himself one new man (speaking of the collective body of Christ)
- 3:9 – created all things through Jesus
- 4:24 – new man which was created according to God

God planned for this transformation (a new creation) before the beginning of time.

- Ephesians 1:4 – just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, ***that we would be holy and blameless*** before Him
- Ephesians 2:10 – We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus ***for good works*** which God prepared beforehand ***that we would walk*** in them.
- Ephesians 4:24 – ...and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in ***righteousness and holiness of the truth.***

5 Walks in Ephesians 4-5

- **4:1-16 – Walk worthy**
 - “walk in a manner worthy of the calling”
 - ***“growing up...into Christ...building up the body”***
- **4:17-32 – Walk differently**
 - “walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk”
 - ***“learn Christ”***
- **5:1-7 – Walk in love**
 - “walk in love, just as Christ also loved you”
 - ***“imitators of God...just as Christ”***
- **5:8-14 – Walk in light**
 - “walk as children of light”
 - ***“trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord”***
- **5:15-21 – Walk carefully in wisdom**
 - “be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise”
 - ***“understand what the will of the Lord is”***

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Here are two examples of the contrast Paul is making.

- Ephesians 2:13 – **But now** in Christ Jesus you who **formerly** were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- Ephesians 5:8 – for you were **formerly** darkness, **but now** you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

Old Man

“formerly” (see 2:2,3,11,13; 4:22; 5:8)

Spirit working in sons of disobedience (2:2)

Corrupted in accordance with lusts of deceit (4:22)

Understanding darkened (4:18)

Don't do (Not, no longer)

New Man

“now” (see 2:2,13; 5:8)

Spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:17)

Renewed in spirit of your mind (4:23)

Eyes of heart being enlightened (1:18)

Do...(But, But now)

DON'T DO

“Not,” “No longer,” “formerly”

No longer children (4:14)

No longer walk (4:17)

Lie (4:25)

Don't let anger go unresolved (4:26)

Don't steal (4:28)

No corrupt word (4:29)

Destructive attitudes like malice (4:31)

Immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, silly talk, course jesting (5:3-4)

Don't walk in darkness, do not participate, do not speak of it (5:7,11-12)

Don't walk as unwise men (5:15)

Do not be foolish (5:17)

Do not get drunk with wine (5:18)

DO

“But,” “But now”

Speak truth in love; grow up; build up (4:15-16)

Learn Christ (4:20-21)

Speak truth (4:25)

Be angry without sin (4:26)

Work with hands (4:28)

Speak edifying words (4:29)

Godly attitudes, like being tenderhearted and forgiving (4:32)

Giving of thanks (5:4)

Walk as children of light, bearing the fruit of the light, exposing the darkness (5:8-11,13)

Walk carefully as wise men, making the most of our time (5:15)

Understand what the will of the Lord is (5:17)

Be filled with the Spirit, singing and encouraging one another, always giving thanks “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, even the Father,” being subject to one another (5:18-21)

WHY

Reason, Emphasis, "just as," "so that"

Growth and unity of the body of Christ (4:3,16)

New man created by God in righteousness and holiness of the truth (4:24)

For we are members of one another (4:25)

Don't give the Devil an open door (4:27)

So that you can share with others (4:28)

So that you can give grace to others (4:29)

Just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (4:32)

My inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God; God's wrath (5:5,6)

Christ will shine on us (5:14)

Because the days are evil (5:16)

In the fear of Christ (5:21)

What indications are there (what proof is there) that shows you are serious about your spiritual growth, your relationship with God? Your relationship with others?

- Reading the Bible?
- Praying often?
- Developing close, accountable, vulnerable relationships with strong, spiritually minded people?
- Being an active part of a local church?

What signs are there, what proof is there:

- That you take your marriage seriously?
- That you take getting ready for retirement seriously?
- That you really want to put that house on the market?
- That you really take automobile maintenance seriously?
- That you really take your health seriously?
- That you really value your brethren in the kingdom of Christ?

If we were really serious about something, shouldn't there be some kind of behavioral change?