

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 4:17-32

Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Compare this section to Col 3:1-17

Paul resumes his exhortations that began in verses 1-3. He started by saying, "walk in a manner..." (v.1) - Now he says, "no longer walk..." (v.17) - Most translations begin v. 17 with "So" (oun)

I. Make No Concession to this Culture (17-19)

"Christians constitute a third race on the earth, no longer Jews, no longer Gentiles."
-F.F. Bruce

The believer's new life in Christ involves a change in direction and conduct (i.e. repentance)
-Acts 2:38
-Rom 6:1-14

17 Now this I say and testify **in the Lord**, that you must **no longer walk** as the **Gentiles** do, in the futility of their minds. Rom 1:21-32 / Jam 1:19-21 / Gal 5:19-22

18 They are **darkened** in their understanding, **alienated** from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their **hardness** of heart.

19 They have **become callous** and have **given themselves up to sensuality**, greedy to **practice** every kind of **impurity**.

Eph 2:1,12 - Their Former State:
(v.1) Dead in Sin
(v.12) Separated from God

II. Make a Commitment to Christ (20-24)

Assuming: εἰ γέ (ei ge)
-Also translated "if indeed" or "surely"
-Implies a confidence in the Gentiles' salvation, not a doubting of it.
-Compare Eph 3:2.

20 But that is not the way **you** learned Christ!—

21 **assuming** that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as **the truth is in Jesus**,

22 to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your **former manner of life** and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

Old Self / New Self
-Rom 6:4-6 "newness of life..." / "our old self was crucified..."
-2Co 5:17 "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..."

23 and to be **renewed** in the spirit of your **minds**, <-Rom 12:1-2

24 and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true **righteousness** and **holiness**.

25 Therefore, having **put away falsehood**, **let** each one of you **speak the truth** with his neighbor, for **we are members one of another**. <-Rom 12:3-8; 1Co 12:12-31

-Gal 3:26-27 "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ"
-Col 3:9-10 "you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self..."

III. Make a Commitment to Christ's Church (25-32)

Old Self vs. New Self
-We MUST put away the things from our "old self" for the body to function properly (Let):
(25) Falsehood vs. Truth
-Zec 8:16
(26-27) Anger/Sin vs. Self Control
-Jam 1:19-20
(28) Stealing vs. Generosity
-Acts 20:34-35
(29) Corrupt Talk vs. Edification
-James 1:26; 3:1-12
(31-5:2) Malice vs. Love
-Col 3:8
-1Co 13

26 **Be angry and do not sin**; **do not let** the sun go down on your anger, <-Ps. 4:4 / Deu 24:13-15

27 and **give no opportunity** to the devil.

28 **Let** the thief **no longer steal**, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to **share with anyone in need**.

Result of "Corrupting Talk"
Sealed > Eph 1:13

29 **Let** no **corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for **building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

31 **Let** all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be **put away from you**, along with all **malice**.

All of these things must flow from ungrudging love

32 **Be kind** to one another, **tenderhearted**, **forgiving** one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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Compare To

Colossians 3:1–17 (ESV)

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Exhortations / No Longer Walk

Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV)

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:1–14 (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die

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again; death no longer has dominion over him.¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Former State / No Longer Walk

Ephesians 2:1 (ESV)

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

As the Gentiles Do

"Christians constitute a third race on the earth, no longer Jews, no longer Gentiles."

- F. F. Bruce¹

Assuming / Surely / If, indeed

Ephesians 3:2 (ESV)

² **assuming** that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,

1623 εἰ (*ei*): usually conditional pt.; ≡ Str 1487 & 1489 & 1490 & 1499 & 1508 & 1509 & 1536—**1.** LN 89.65 **if** a marker of a condition, real, hypothetical, actual, or contrary to fact (Mt 4:3; 11:21; 26:42; Lk 19:42); **2.** LN 89.30 **because**, since; a marker of cause or reason (Mt 6:30; Ro 6:8); **3.** LN 90.26 **that**, whether, if; a marker of an indirect question (Mk 15:44; Jn 9:25); **4.** LN 89.131 εἰ μή (*ei mē*), except that (Mt 5:13; 11:27)²

1145 γέ (*ge*): enclitic pt., *i.e.*, accent goes to prior word; ≡ Str 1065—LN 91.6 **really**, indeed; usually with weak emphasis, usually with other particles (Mt 6:1; 7:20; Lk 11:8; 24:21; Ac 2:18; 8:30; 17:27; Ro 8:32; 1Co 4:8; Col 1:23)³

¹ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Ephesians* (Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1961), p. 91

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Put On → Old Self / New Self

Romans 6:4–6 (ESV)

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Galatians 3:26–27 (ESV)

²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Colossians 3:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Renewed Minds

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Members One of Another

Romans 12:3–8 (ESV)

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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1 Corinthians 12:12–31 (ESV)

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Old Self vs. New Self

Falsehood vs. Truth

Zechariah 8:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace;

Anger/Sin vs. Self Control

James 1:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Psalms 4:4 (ESV)

⁴ Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*

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Deuteronomy 24:13–15 (ESV)

¹³ You shall restore to him the pledge as the sun sets, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you. And it shall be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.

¹⁴ “You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. ¹⁵ You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

Stealing vs. Generosity

Acts 20:34–35 (ESV)

³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Corrupt Talk vs. Edification

James 1:26 (ESV)

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.

James 3:1–12 (ESV)

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

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Malice vs. Love

Colossians 3:8 (ESV)

⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.