

## THE BAPTISMAL WALK: CLOTHED WITH CHRIST

**Summary of what we will learn:** The Ephesian Christians are baptized into Christ, which means they have put-off the sinful ways of their former lives. Paul encourages them to walk in the confession and life of Christ, not individualistically, but as members of His One body: the Church.

**Ephesians 4:17–5:2** - <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ!— <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, *since you have* put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**5** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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Review: Eph. 4:1-16 introduced the gifts of Christ that *edify* the Church, “*Now this I say and testify in the Lord*” is Paul’s way of shifting the focus to the Christian’s walk with Christ expounded in this section.

v. 17- What does the biblical metaphor “walking” include?

**Dr. Winger:** “Paul’s concern is not simply that the Ephesians would obey God’s Law better than the Gentiles around them. Rather, he warns them against falling back into their old ways—activities and patterns of life that would lead them away from faith in Christ and back into pagan beliefs.”

Why does Paul describe Gentiles’ walk as “*futility of their minds*”?

vv.18-19 are a thorough description of Idolatry’s Fruit of Unbelief, and a reminder of what the Ephesians have left behind – given this description, what Baptized Christian would want to go back?

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| - <i>They are darkened in their understanding</i>        | Spiritually blind                       |
| - <i>alienated from the life of God</i>                  | the life He has and gives is not theirs |
| o (why?) <i>because of the ignorance that is in them</i> | a refusal to acknowledge God            |
| o (how?) <i>due to their hardness of heart</i>           | unable to function with repentance      |
| - <i>They have become callous</i>                        | unable to feel, no moral sensitivity    |
| - <i>and have given themselves up to sensuality,</i>     | Idolatry & Sexuality tied together      |
| - <i>greedy to practice every kind of impurity.</i>      | Inclined to evil, not neutral at all    |



**After each phrase/word note which commandment(s) these speak to \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers**

*let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another*

*Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,*

*give no opportunity to the devil*

*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.*

*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*

*do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,*

*by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

*Let all bitterness*

*and wrath*

*and anger*

*and clamor*

*and slander*

*be put away from you,*

*along with all malice.*

**Dr. Stoeckhardt** on ‘grieving the Holy Spirit’ - “It is the Holy Ghost of God who dwells in the Christian, who not only works in them and through them, , but personally lives in them, who has chosen their hearts as His temple, wherefore the Christians are to be careful not to grieve this exalted Guest of their hearts. They should not trifle with their words as if they were mere words, they should rather constantly remain aware of the fact that the Spirit of God who lives in them hears and notes what they say.”

4:32 – 5:2 show us this is not *merely* Law language, but directly connected to our Baptized Life In Christ  
*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

What fruit does the Gospel bear?

**Dr. Winger:** “The Gospel is diminished if it leads the Christian to care only for himself. As Ephesians has stressed the unity of all people in Christ through the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile and the persistent metaphor of the one body, so Paul’s Law preaching and Gospel encouragement seek the good of the Christian community as well as the individual...Mutual forgiveness and love are to be the work of the Christian community, as it is both made possible by Christ’s work and inspired by his example.”