



Sunday of the *Word of God*

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LEAVING THE OLD, LIVING THE NEW

Ephesians 4:17–32



The OLD WAY we used to
live before Christ

The NEW WAY we must live now that
we belong to Christ

I. THE OLD LIFE: A LIFE WITHOUT GOD (**VV. 17–19**)



Paul begins by
saying,
***“You must **no**
longer
walk as the
Gentiles do.”***



FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE **OLD LIFE**:

1. Futility of mind (v. 17)

**17 So I tell you this,
and insist on it in the
Lord, that you must no
longer live as the
Gentiles do,
IN THE FUTILITY OF
THEIR THINKING.**

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

1. Futility of mind (v. 17)

- “Futility” means emptiness, pointlessness, or lacking real purpose.

Human wisdom alone cannot produce eternal purpose.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

2. Darkened Understanding (v. 18)

18 They are
**DARKENED IN THEIR
UNDERSTANDING** and
separated from the life of
God because of the
ignorance that is in them
due to the hardening of
their hearts. .

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

2. Darkened Understanding (v. 18)

This “darkness” is not about intelligence but spiritual insight—the ability to see life the way God sees it. The unbelieving mind cannot see spiritual truth clearly.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

3. Separated from the life of God (v. 18)

18 They are darkened in
their understanding and
SEPARATED FROM
THE LIFE OF
GOD because of the
ignorance that is in them
due to the hardening of
their hearts. .

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

3. Separated from the life of God(v. 18)

When someone is cut off from God's
life-giving presence:

- sin becomes easier
- convictions become weaker
- the heart becomes harder and less responsive

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

4. Hardness of heart (v. 18–19)



18 They are darkened in
their understanding and
separated from the life of
god because of the
ignorance that is in them
due to the **HARDENING
OF THEIR HEARTS..**

19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so **AS TO INDULGE IN EVERY KIND OF IMPURITY**, and they are full of greed.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

4. Hardness of heart (v. 18–19)

A “**hardened heart**” is a heart that has become resistant to God—no longer sensitive, responsive, or willing to be corrected.



A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue sweater and jeans, is shown in profile from the waist up, looking towards a large sign on a wall.

**FUTILE
MIND**

**DARKENED
UNDERSTANDING**

**SEPARATED
FROM THE
LIFE OF GOD**

**HARDNESS
OF HEART**



II. THE NEW LIFE: A LIFE LEARNED FROM CHRIST (VV. 20–24)

Transformation begins with knowing Christ (v. 21)

21 when you heard about Christ and
were taught in
him in accordance with the truth that
is in Jesus.

**THE *STARTING POINT* OF TRUE SPIRITUAL
TRANSFORMATION IS A **PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST**—NOT
MERELY KNOWING FACTS ABOUT HIM BUT
*KNOWING HIM.***

THREE STEPS OF TRANSFORMATION (vv. 22–24)

A. PUT OFF THE OLD SELF (V. 22)

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **TO PUT OFF YOUR OLD SELF**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

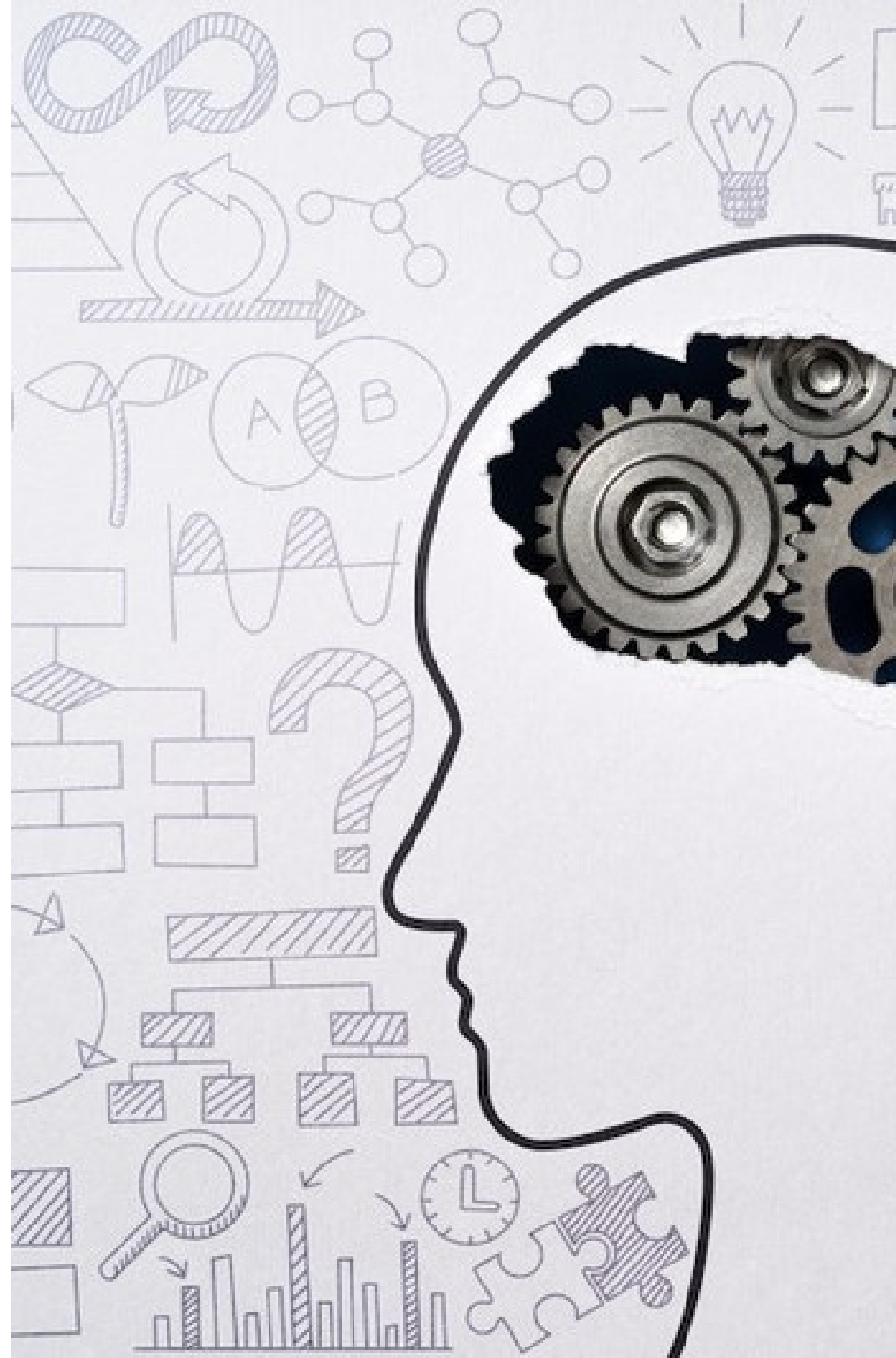
THREE STEPS OF TRANSFORMATION **(vv. 22–24)**

A. PUT OFF THE OLD SELF (V. 22)

**B. BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF
YOUR MIND (V. 23)**

**23 to be MADE NEW
IN THE ATTITUDE OF
YOUR MINDS;**

*WHAT YOU
THINK, BUT
HOW YOU
THINK.*



the phrase for “**BE RENEWED**”
(*ananeousthai*) is in the **PASSIVE VOICE**.

When something is passive, the
subject is **receiving** the action,
not performing it.

the verb tense also carries the idea of
CONTINUOUS ACTION

This isn't a one-time event—
it's a daily transformation.

THREE STEPS OF TRANSFORMATION (vv. 22–24)

A. PUT OFF THE OLD SELF (V. 22)

**B. BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF
YOUR MIND (V. 23)**

C. PUT ON THE NEW SELF (V.24)

**24 and TO PUT
ON THE NEW
SELF**, created to be
like God in true
righteousness and
holiness.



PUTTING ON THE NEW SELF MEANS...

1. Living Out Your New Identity in Christ

- has a new heart
- new desires
- new nature
- new power through the Holy Spirit

PUTTING ON THE NEW SELF MEANS...

2. Replacing Old Habits with New Ones

- Lying with Truth
- Anger with Self Control
- Stealing with Honest Work
- Corrupt talk with edifying speech
- Bitterness with Kindness
- Resentment with Forgiveness



PUTTING ON THE NEW SELF MEANS...

3. Letting Christ be seen in you

- The more Christ's character becomes visible
- The more your life reflects God
- The more your behavior testifies of your salvation



**IS MY LIFE
REFLECTING
CHRIST OR
THE WORLD?**