

March 18, 2018

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Eph. 4:17-24

“Walk In Holiness – Part One”

- I. Greeting – 1:1-2
- II. God’s Eternal Plan for the Church **Explained** – 1:3 – 3:21
- III. God’s Eternal Plan for the Church **Applied** (4:1 – 6:22)
 - A. What – 4:1 – Walk Worthy!
 - B. How – 4:2-6:22
 - 1. Walk in **Unity** – 4:2-16
 - 2. **Walk in Holiness (new life) – 4:17-24**

a. Not like an Unbeliever (what you were) – 17-19

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. What is holiness? Who ultimately determines what is holy and what isn't holy? What does it mean to "walk" in holiness? Is it good enough to just be "a little bit more holy" than the unbelievers ("Gentiles") in the world?
2. When you become a Christian, do all of your old thoughts, attitudes, desires, and habits automatically go away? Are there any Bible passages telling us that genuine believers continue to struggle with old sinful ways? If so, list them.
3. Paul begins in verse 17 by saying, "This I say, and affirm together with the Lord." Why do you think he begins this section this way? Is there any reason he would expect resistance to what he is going to say in verses 17-32? How would this statement motivate the readers to listen carefully and submit to what he says?
4. What is the "**futility of their mind**"? What are some other ways of saying that? What are some examples of this in our world today? Why are they dangerous?
5. Paul says that unbelievers have a **darkened understanding** (mind). The Bible describes the mind of the unbeliever with other adjectives: "**debased, hardened, blinded, futile, hostile, deluded, deceived, sensuous, depraved, corrupted, and defiled.**" Is this true of all unbelievers? If so, what are the implications in sharing God's truth with them? How is it possible for them to understand? (See Jn. 8:43; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2:14; 4:3-6)
6. How is "being darkened in their understanding" different from the futility of their mind?
7. In what sense are unbelievers excluded from the life of God? (See Ps. 58:3; Eph. 2:1, 14) **D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones** says man in sin does not live, he exists. He is living like an animal. He has become cut off from the life of God which is the source of his being and of life itself. **Augustine** said, "You made us for Yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You." What are the implications of this for unbelievers in your life? What is their greatest need?
8. What is the difference between "**ignorance**" due to a lack of education and "ignorance" that is willful? Which is Paul referring to in Eph. 4:18? How does Hosea 4:6 and Romans 1:18ff shed light on this problem in man?
9. Paul next mentions "hardness of heart." How does Zech. 7:8-12 shed light on this problem? If men continue to harden their hearts, what will God do? (See Romans 1:24, 26, 28)
10. What does it mean to become "**callous**"? Read 2 Kings 22:8-20. How was Josiah the opposite of callous? How do we develop a tender heart to the things of God?
11. According to Eph. 4:19, what is the resultant lifestyle of an unbeliever who has a hard, calloused heart? What is "sensuality"? What is "impurity"? What is "greediness"? Will unbelievers ever be truly satisfied with this lifestyle?
12. How does this study help you understand unbelievers in the world around you?
13. What is Paul saying to the unbelievers? Are there any ways you are allowing these descriptions to be true of you? Repent and develop a tender heart toward God and His Word. See the world and sin the way He sees it. Be different. Walk worthy. Walk in holiness.