

Ephesians

Transformed by Grace, Empowered by Peace

Study 14

New Life and New Integrity

Ephesians 4:17-25

Ephesians 4:17-25

“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.”

1. a) **Objective question.** Ephesians 4:17-25 exhorts us to no longer walk as Gentiles do, to put off our old self, to put on the new self, and to pursue the likeness of God. What should be the motivation for this change?
 - A. For moral excellence
 - B. We should do these things because the Bible tells us so
 - C. It is a response to our new spiritual realities
 - D. To obtain salvation

- b) **Comprehension question.** The metaphor of “putting off” and “putting on” alludes to clothing. What do the “clothes” represent?

- The clothes represent our being - who we are. In particular, we are to remove our “old self” and wear our “new self”.

Ephesians 4:22-24

“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

2. Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, what are the three things that spiritual transformation should result in?

- Identity
- Motives
- Thinking

3. a) Reflection question. In what do you find your identity?

- Possibly treasure, self esteem, career, family, spouse, money, belongings, fame, glory, recognition
- It should be found in Christ

- b) Comprehension question.

Do we have a new identity because we have a new morality?

Or do we have a new morality because we have a new identity?

We have a new morality because we have a new identity.

- c) Comprehension question. What is our new identity as Christians? Refer to Ephesians 4:24.

- We have a new self
- Created after the likeness of God

- In true righteousness and holiness

4. Fill in the blanks. Based on the video lecture, what could be our old motives, and what should be our new motives?

Old Motives	New Motives
Fear of punishment	Gratitude for what the Lord Jesus has done
Fear of loss of face	
Fear of failure	No feeling of condescension to others
Best strategy for success	
Pride of personal values	

5. Objective question. Based on Ephesians 4:15, why should we speak the truth in love?

- A. Because it is ethical and it is the right thing to do
- B. To build up the body
- C. So that we won't be caught lying
- D. To be known as a good Christian

6. Comprehension question. As Christians, we should have a new way of thinking vs. the old way of thinking. Compare and contrast what you understand about the new way vs. the old way.

Old thinking

- World
- Popular culture
- Morality being nice
- Good for cultured successful people

New thinking

- From the Word of God

- Growth after taking truth in you
- Truth is living and changes us from the inside
- Humbler, wiser, deeper
- Warmth
- Speaks to failure too

Ephesians 4:25

“Therefore, putting away **lying**, “Let each one of you **speak truth** with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.”

7. a) Discussion question. Based on Ephesians 4:25, is it possible to occasionally practice falsehood and occasionally speak the truth? Or are they mutually exclusive?

b) Comprehension question. What is the root of lying/falsehood?
Refer to Ephesians 4:22.

- Deceitful desires
- Lying is a symptom of falsehood

c) Comprehension question. Where do lies come from? Consider Genesis 3:4-5 and Jeremiah 17:9-10.

- Satan - actively controls us through falsehood
- Our heart - we generate our own lies

8. a) Comprehension question. “The cross shows the absolute truth of God.” Elaborate and explain what this means.

- It is totally consistent with God’s character

- He does not close one eye and let us as sinners walk free without sending His Son
- The fact that His own Son hung on the cross shows God's total commitment to truth
- He cannot ignore sin
- He is totally righteous and did not compromise

b) Discussion question. Do we need to be afraid of truth? Why or why not?

- No - whatever sin I have done has been dealt with at the cross already
- I am far more evil than what I thought
- But I am far more loved than I can ever imagine

c) Reflection question. What can we do practically to be people of truth?
Refer to Ephesians 4:23.

- By the renewing in the spirit of our minds
- In the present continuous passive tense
- We are embarking constant progressive journey towards holiness
- Saturate your heart and mind with the truth
 - Be honest with God
 - Be honest with yourself
 - Be honest with others

9. Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, what is Gospel repentance?

- Look at sin the way God looks at it
- Hate falsehood, love truth

10. Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, what is the godly response to criticism (truth about ourselves)?

- Careful evaluation to discern truth
- Apologize

- Use critique to grow
- Invite prayer and help

11. Reflection question. What do you say to a person who insists that since he is saved by faith, it really does not matter now whether he lies or not his sins are forgiven anyway?

Takeaway

- A. New Life and New Integrity
 - a. New self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness
- B. We are called to put off our old selves and put on our new selves
- C. Our new identity should lead to our new morality
- D. Spiritual transformation should result in changes in:
 - a. New Identity
 - b. New Motives
 - c. New Thinking

Case Study

Case 1 – Disunity

Lek Choo was a leader in a Baptist church who was active in the Boys Brigade serving as an officer there. There had been a lot of complaints from some folk in the main church that the company had been lax in cleanliness and often left a mess for the caretaker to clean up each Saturday. He listened enthusiastically to these folk and agreed that the company had been rather lax in standards and pledged to bring it up to the officer corp.

Once in the officer corp for discussion, the other officers were congratulating the company for such great performance at the state wide drills. The Captain exclaimed how pleased he

was at the boys, how responsible they were in cleaning up after themselves. Lek Choo felt embarrassed to rock the boat and kept silent.

The situation festered over the next few months and one day the same group of unhappy church members brought up the matter directly to the Captain and he was rather concerned about the whole thing and asked then why didn't they bring up the matter sooner and let it fester so long and let bad feelings escalate?

They said they did and pointed out that they complained to one of the BB officers which was Lek Choo. The Captain held a meeting to discuss the matter and incidentally asked which officer was it that was told of the feedback from the church. He asked "Apparently, one officer was told of this before - who was it?" Lek Choo turned red and kept quiet.

Someone pointed that rumour had it that it was Lek Choo at which point she then promptly resigned "stating that it was not her job to bring these issues up and she did not have to put up with all this rubbish - after all, she was a volunteer and they should have been happy to have her serve at all and not persecute her!"

1. Why didn't Lek Choo bring up the matter at the officer's meeting?
2. How was her silence interpreted? How is this a falsehood?
3. Which of the following words apply to Lek Choo and how do you justify your comments?
 - A. Arrogant
 - B. Cowardly
 - C. Seeks approval of others
 - D. Confused
 - E. Sensitive
 - F. Forgetful
 - G. Apathetic
4. How should she have handled the situation or criticism towards her? How would the gospel be helpful to her at that moment?