

A NEW MINDSET

Ephesians 4:17-24

- I. **AUTHORITATIVE DOCTRINE** (17; Jude 1:3)
 - A. **Apostolic Authority**— establishing official Christian doctrine
 1. **Writing with the authority of Jesus**
 2. **In keeping with the teaching and Spirit of Jesus**
 - B. **Insistent Tone**—adamant, unrelenting, no option to refuse
 - C. **Official Command**—You Must Not live/behave *like the Gentiles!*
Purity just as important as unity
- II. **THE OLD NATURE** (18, 19, 22)—sinful nature we are born with, in Adam
 - A. **Benchmarks of Decline** (Rom 1:18-32)—a picture of self-destruction
 1. **Hardened Heart** (Obstinate, stubborn)—
 2. **Darkened Mind** (Jn 3:19-20; 2 Thes 2:9-12; 1 Tim 4:2)—Futile minds, ignorant, calloused
 3. **Deadened Soul** (Rom 6:21, 23)—Alienated from the life of God, incurring judgment)
 4. **Reckless Life**—loss of self-control, increasingly depraved sexuality
 - B. **Sexual Impurity**—particularly characteristic of heathen idol worship
- III. **THE NEW NATURE** (20, 21, 23, 24)—born again in Christ, new creation
Recreated in God's Image, fresh, beautiful, full of life
 - A. **Marks of New Life**
 1. **Softened Heart** (Ezek 11:19; 36:26; Jer 31:33)—Heart of stone removed, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit restored
 2. **Enlightened Mind** (Ps 119:130; Mat 11:25; Jn 14:26; 1 Cor 2:9)—given understanding by the Holy Spirit
 3. **Enlivened Soul** (Jn 3:36 & Jn10:10; Rom 8:6, 11; Gal 6:8; 1 Jn 5:11)—reconciled to God; new, abundant life in Christ

4. **Godly Life** (v. 24; Lk 1:74-75)—righteous & holy

B. **Sexual Purity**

IV. **SANCTIFICATION** (20-24;)—growing in righteousness and holiness

A. **Personal Effort is Required** (22, 24)—active, not passive

1. **Sanctification is the fruit of salvation** (Eph 2:8-10)
2. **We must actively pursue holiness** (Phil 2:12-13 & 3:13-14; 1 Tim 4:7-8)

B. **Metaphor of Clothing** (22, 24)—picture of repentance & transformation

1. **You are a new person** ()—**new creation; new identity, status, job**
2. **Change your clothes** (1 Jn 3:5-6)—dress in keeping with new life

C. **Renewal of Your Mind** (20-24)—moral education and transformation—

1. **Importance of the Mind** (Rom 12:1-2)—Christianity is not mindless!
2. **Importance of Teaching** (Mat 28:19-20)—Christ Centered
 - a. **Learned Christ**—*You were taught the Christian faith (all about Him)*
 - b. **Heard Him**—hearing **His voice** through their Christian teachers, having **His Spirit** enlightening
 - c. **Taught in Him**—Christ is the context
 - d. **The Truth as it is in Jesus** (Jn 14:6; Ps 29:2; 1 Jn 3:2-3)—the truth of the gospel

3. **The Changing of Desires** (22; Ezek 11:19-21; Rom 6:17-19)

- a. **Feed the renewed mind.**—truth from the scriptures
- b. **Cultivate holy, healthy desires.**
- c. **Surround yourself with likeminded Christians**—fellowship, accountability, support