

Sermon Outline

NOBC

#25 Ephesians 4:17-23 (page 865)

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Instructions For How A Christian Is To Live: Part 1 A New Way of Thinking and Living

As Paul begins to amplify what he introduced in Eph. 4:1 (“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called”), he begins to describe in very practical, easily understood statements, how we are to live as Christians.

The passage is extensive. Today we cover just a few verses, dealing with the way we are to think, lest we pass over these instructions too quickly without grasping their importance.

1. THE FIRST INSTRUCTIONS REGARD OUR MIND

HOW WE ARE TO THINK ABOUT THE MATTERS OF LIFE

The Apostle again uses the analogy of “walking” because it represents the step-by-step decisions we make that produce the experiences we have in our daily lives.

A. Do Not Reproduce The Mindset of Those Who Do Not Know Christ as Lord.

1 John 2:6

Christians are to have different minds from those who do not know Christ because the characteristics of the mind of such people are:

1. *“Vanity of their mind”* — devoid of truth, deceptive, worthless Rom 1:21,22
2. *“Understanding darkened”* — unable to think logically or normally
3. *“Alienated from the life of God”* — separated from God, the source of life

Because:

- a. Their minds are *“ignorant”* of truth and reality — live in a fantasy world of things they think are real, but are only the product of their mind Rom. 1:23-25
- b. Their hearts (minds) are *“blinded”* because they are hardened against God

4. The end results of this type of mind:

- a. *“Past feeling”* — the loss of all sensitivity to be able to discern that which is wrong and abominable Rom. 1:26-27
- b. *“Given themselves over unto lasciviousness”* — controlled by unbridled and unrestrained lust, the loss of restraints such as shame Rom 1:28-32
- c. *“To work all uncleanness with greediness”* — to engage in and produce filth for the purpose of making money 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 16

B. Characteristics of The Mind of Christ Is Opposite The Mind of The Unsaved

1. First, it is *“learned” Christ* — It is acquired, experienced in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in which we acquire the mind of Christ
2. Second, it is *“heard” from Christ* — *“Heard”* means to listen with a predetermined mindset to value, comprehend and obey what one hears
3. Third, it is *“taught”* to us by Christ, that ...
 - a. Christ imparts true knowledge to us
 - b. Christ embeds this knowledge into our minds and very being
 - c. Christ enables us to live according to the truths He has taught us

C. Therefore, We Are To Choose To Take Two Actions: Eph. 4: 22-23

1. We are to *“put off”* the old filthy way of thinking and living
2. We are to allow Christ to renew our minds in the pattern of His mind Philippians 2:5; Colossians 2:6-10