

# **Bible Study Packet Week 8**



**Pastor Marlon McDuffie  
Lead Pastor**

## Ephesians 4:17-32

Put off...Put on

Read this passage carefully a couple of times, noting its main points and recalling 4:1.

### **A profile of sinners**

1. In verses 17-19, Paul describes how the ungodly live. What are the chief characteristics he ascribes to them?

**Sensuality** (verse 19) Lewdness; implies sexual depravity, violence, and a refusal to recognize limits. Paul may have associated it with the ritual of prostitution and other practices at the temple of Artemis-Cybele in Ephesus.

2. What do you think hardness of heart (see verse 18) is? (See Hebrews 3:7-13.)

3. Why do you think Paul insists so emphatically in verse 17?

4. Do you think there are any warnings here for Christians? If so, what might they be?

### **The new life in Christ**

**Corrupted** (verse 22). Literally, "rotting," decaying as a dying or dead thing.

5. Study Paul's summary of what the Ephesians had been taught about life in Christ (see verses 20-24). In the following chart, write in the appropriate columns (1) the three things the Ephesians had been taught to do, and (2) how you could put each teaching into practice.

What the Ephesians were taught?	How could I put it into practice?
verse 22	
verse 23	

verse 24	
----------	--

6. Do you think Paul intended these as three separate steps? Why or why not?

7. Look up Romans 8:5-6 and Romans 12:1-2. Write down anything you find that helps to shed light on the process Paul describes in Ephesians 4:22-24.

## **Specific instructions**

8. In verses 25-32, Paul lists some specific rules for living in "true righteousness and holiness" (verse 24). What are the commands Paul gives in verses 25-28?

9. Read Matthew 12:33-37. How might Jesus' insight help us to understand why Paul commanded Ephesians 4:22-24 before 4:25-32?

10. Can you find any clues in 4:25-28 as to why Paul gave this command? Think in terms of the kind of perspective on life Paul wanted the Ephesians to have.

11.a. Look again at verses 26-27. Why do you think Paul was anxious to get this point across?

b. What are some possible ways to obey this particular command? (Try to be specific in your answer.)

12. a. What seems to be Paul's purpose behind the command he gives in 4:29?

b. Do you think this command has any relationship to the one in 4:25? Why or why not?

13. a. In 4:30, Paul tells us not to "do not bring sorrow to God's Spirit." How do the following two verses (31-32) explain what Paul meant by an offense to God's Spirit?

b. What does the possibility of bringing sorrow to God's Spirit tell you about the nature of this Person of the Trinity?

14. Why do you think Paul reminded his readers, "guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption." (verse 30)?

15. a. What is the model for forgiveness set before us in verse 32?



b. Why is this model important to our relationships with each other?

16. a. Write down the character qualities Paul lists in verse 32.

b. How could you demonstrate these qualities in your own life? For your answer, apply qualities to the behavior Paul teaches in verses 25-29.

17. Is there any area of your thoughts or behaviors that you have been convicted of, in your study of Ephesians 4:17-32?

If so, write it down, and some steps that you could begin to take this week (i.e. talk to God; ask a friend to pray for you and help you; begin establishing a habit, etc.) in order to put your desire for obedience into action.

18. a. Summarize what you believe to be the main teaching of 4:17-32.

b. How does it relate to 4:1-16?

19. List any questions you have about 4:17-32.