



# Ephesians

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

*Today's Scripture Reading:*

---

**EPHESIANS 4:17-22**

---

*Ephesians*  
PART TWO | WALK IT OUT

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

<sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ!  
– <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him  
and were taught in him, as the truth is in  
Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to  
your former manner of life and is corrupt through  
deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit  
of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created  
after the likeness of God in true righteousness and  
holiness.

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT



# Ephesians

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

*Why does Paul feel such a strong need to once again articulate the old life these Gentiles once lived and warn the Ephesian believers of its peril?*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

*Ruth Paxson says "God's sovereign work through grace" is the driving force behind chapter 2's discourse while "man's cooperative action through faith" is the motive for today's passage.*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

*Paul's doubling down here emphasizes the seriousness of our "cooperative action through faith" in choosing new life instead of the old dead shell we were prior to receiving new life in Christ.*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT



<sup>17</sup> Now this **I say** and **testify in the Lord**, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

*Paul is making an emphatic affirmation and a serious declaration. Paul's preaching here is not about personal conviction regarding the standard for their Christian life, but that it is the living Lord speaking through him, Saying in essence "I and the Lord in me are solemnly declaring, so pay very close attention to what I am about to tell you."*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

## **“Futility of their minds”**

*Futility just means pointless or useless. The Gentiles thought process, which directed their life, actions, convictions and end goals served a useless end.*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

*Paul is talking about the Gentiles' very foundational thinking. The premises and presumptions that they based their thought process on which then determined what the results of their thinking will be, i.e., their actions.*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

*Bob Deffinbaugh says "Paul maintains that the moral conduct of men is the outgrowth of his mental processes. The dominant thought here, as we find elsewhere in Ephesians, is that doctrine determines conduct. What we believe affects the way we behave."*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

<sup>18</sup> They are **darkened in their understanding,** alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

**Romans 1:21:** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

**Matthew 13:13:** This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

The Gentiles knew **of** God but chose **not** to allow that knowledge to cause any sort of conviction or change of lifestyle. This choice to ignore clear evidence is, in part, how they ended up living a life of uselessness.

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

18b **alienated** from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to **their hardness of heart.**

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

The word for ignorance is *Agnoia* which means a  
“**willful blindness, not the ignorance which  
mitigates guilt**”

*-Vines Expository Dictionary.*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT



19 They have become **callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to **practice** every kind of impurity.

*Who being past feeling or **callous**–* The original word is peculiarly significant, properly meaning, **past feeling pain, or void of distress** – Pain urges the sick to seek a remedy

*Benson Commentary*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

**2 Peter 2:14:** They have eyes full of adultery, *insatiable* for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts *trained in greed.*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!  
– 21 assuming that you have heard about him  
and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

22 to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

<sup>23</sup> and to be **renewed** in the spirit of your minds,

**2 Timothy 1:13:** Hold onto the pattern of sound teaching.

**2 Timothy 2:15:** Be diligent to correctly teach the word of truth.

*Ephesians* 4:17-24  
PART TWO | WALK IT OUT

*What are you currently wearing, what identity have you put on? Are you wearing a robe of blood bought righteousness, or a garment of greed and self serving interests?*

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

<sup>24</sup> and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Romans 13:15:** Rather, **clothe** yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh

**Galatians 3:27:** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have **clothed** yourselves with Christ.

*Ephesians* 4:17-24

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT

**Ephesians 6:** We are to **clothe** ourselves in God's armor, preparing for battle

**Colossians 3:12:** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe** yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

*Ephesians* 4:17-24  
PART TWO | WALK IT OUT





# Ephesians

PART  
TWO

WALK IT OUT