

# Sermon Handout

## Replacement Living

### Ephesians 4:17-24

- I.** Understanding the “old man”/“new man” language vv. 22-24
- A metaphysical change is not in view (as if we could metamorphose ourselves)
  - Christ himself is the “new man” I Cor 15:45-49;
  - We are a “new creation” **in Christ** II Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; 3:26-27 *cf.* Eph 2:6
  - Therefore, we are to “put on” Christ v. 24 *cf.* Rom 8:12-16; Col 3:9-10
- II.** We are instructed to “walk” differently in Christ v. 17
- The heathen walk according to a vain mind vv. 17b – 19 *cf.* Rom 1:21-22  
Leading to lasciviousness (lewd behavior) *cf.* Gal 5:19; Rom 1:24, 26-28  
Also impurity (a broad term) and greed v. 19b
  - This behavior is inconsistent with Christlikeness v. 20
  - Our new “nature” in Christ is to be just and pure v. 24 (*cf.* Ex 22-23; Lev 10)
- III.** St. Paul’s instructions concern our **behavior** vv. 22-32
- Put off lying, unrighteous anger, theft, unhelpful speech, etc. vv. 25-32
  - “Putting off” begins with a mindset change v. 23 *contra* vv. 17b-22
  - “Putting on” must accompany “putting off”  
We are to **replace** one manner of life with another (*e.g.* v. 28) *cf.* Gal 5:16-26
- IV. Practicing replacement living**
- Replace pride with humility Jas 4:6; Ps 138:6; Pr 3:24; Rom 12:3; I Pet 5:5
  - Replace greed (avarice) with gratitude & contentment  
I Tim 6:6-7, 10-11; Phil 4:12-13 *cf.* vv. 6-7 (*contra* Rom 1:21)
  - Replace sloth with industry Pr 6:6-8; Eccl 3:13, 10:18; Rom 12:11; Prov 19:15
  - Replace bitterness & wrath with gentleness & kindness Eph 4:31-32  
Linked with humility and patience Col 3:12; Eph 4:2

**Christian living is not about symbolic austerity, nor is it about mere external obedience to established rules and mores. God calls us to continually seek the transformation of our minds into Christlike attitudes that are worked out in the way we live. “Put off” those activities that are associated with sin and “put on” behavior that lines up with the righteousness and holiness that belong to Christ and to us, who have been identified with him through our baptism and faith (Philippians 2:12).**