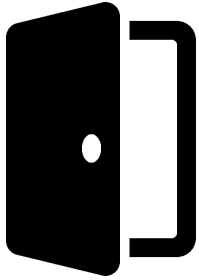


A Spiritual Change of Clothing Ephesians 4:17-32



At what age did Mom let you start choosing your own clothes to wear?

Do you prefer wearing old, comfortable clothing or dressy outfits? Why?

What do you do with your worn-out clothing?



[17] Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no

longer walk as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their thoughts. [18] They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them and because of the hardness of their hearts. [19] They became callous and gave themselves over to promiscuity for the practice of every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more.

[20] But that is not how you learned about the Messiah,

[21] assuming you heard about Him and were taught by Him, because the truth is in Jesus.

[22] You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; [23] you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; [24] you put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

[25] Since you put away lying, Speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another.

[26] Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, [27] and don't give the Devil an opportunity.

[28] The thief must no longer steal. Instead, he must do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need.

[29] No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. [30] And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by Him for the day of redemption. [31] All bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. [32] And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.



In what way were Ephesian believers instructed not to live as Gentiles? (4:17-19)

How do the mind, heart, and conscience influence the actions of non-believers? How are Christians to deal with these realities?

How did Paul contrast the Ephesian Christians with the Gentiles? (4:20-21)

In what way does God want Christians to change? (4:22-24)

Is it possible to change conduct without a transformation of the heart?

Likewise, can the heart be changed without a resulting change of conduct? Why is that?

How should new Christians stop living? (4:22)

What does "taking off" and "putting on" entail?

Of what aspects of your old nature do you still need to rid yourself?

How should new Christians begin living? (4:23-24)

How do you see the new nature taking hold in your life?

How would you rate your spiritual wardrobe: basic, adequate, or overflowing?

What should we keep in mind concerning lying, anger, and stealing? (4:25-28)

How should believers speak to one another? (4:29)

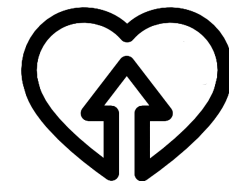
How can the Holy Spirit be hurt? (4:29-30)

Of what five vices are believers to rid themselves? (4:31)

According to Paul, what specific actions distinguish the Christian lifestyle from the pagan lifestyle?

Since becoming a Christian, what old habits have you discarded?

What positive commands did Paul give the Ephesians? (4:32)



What would be the first step for you in changing an old pattern of behavior?

What can you do this week to make your Christian living more consistent?

How can you relate to others today in new, joyful ways?