

# LG | Leader

[Ephesians 4:17-24]

## WARM-UP (10 mins)

Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- In your time with the Lord, what is He teaching you?
- When you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that convicted you personally or stirred your affection towards the Lord?

## ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Paul begins this passage by giving a pretty intense exhortation? What makes this verse so intense?

Paul says to "testify in the Lord." He is very boldly making it known that Christ Himself is his source of authority.

2. Why does Paul use the Gentiles as an example for sinfulness here?

Paul is explaining that we are not to live as non-Christians do. Gentiles were known for their pagan practices and their open rejection of God. Gentiles could be used in an ethnic sense here, but Paul also used Gentiles in a moral sense. Paul is making the distinction that Christians are to live not as pagans do, but live lives marked by Christ.

3. Paul describes the Gentiles as ignorant, hard-hearted, and callous, rejecting opportunities to respond to the good news of Jesus. What ultimately resulted for these Gentiles who rejected God?

They chose the world over God. They gave themselves to sensuality and every kind of impurity.

4. Read Romans 1:18-32; Hebrews 10:26-31; Romans 6:23. What happens when we reject God and pursue the desires of the flesh? What is the ultimate end of those who choose to continue this path?

The flesh is wicked beyond measure. Left to ourselves, we cannot quench our thirst for sin. We are prone to self-destruction, both physically and spiritually. Our need for Christ could not be more apparent throughout human history. Our ultimate end apart from Christ is an eternity apart from God.

5. What does it mean to “put off your old self” and “put on the new self”?

When someone surrenders their life to Christ, that individual’s sins are forgiven by the gift of grace through the sacrifice of Jesus. At that same moment, they are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and are given a deposit of the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Spirit, these new believers have the ability to take off their old self along with its sinful desires and put on the new self, beginning a pursuit of righteousness and holiness. This new Christian, a new creation, is not perfect but is growing in maturity as the Holy spirit renews their heart and mind, day by day. They supernaturally can hate what they once loved, and love what they once hated.

6. Is the “putting off of your old self” a one-time act?

No, it is a daily putting off, hence the phrases “being renewed” and “being corrupted” (Col 3:10; Eph 4:22). We must daily be “washed” by the Word, walking in step with the Holy Spirit (living a life of prayer and devotion), and setting our minds on things above (living with an eternal perspective).

## **PRAY**

**Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.**

Commentary Reference:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary

- Merida, Tony. *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*. B&H Publishing Group; Nashville, Tennessee, 2014.