

Putting on the New Self **Ephesians 4:17-32**

“...We love you, Yahweh, but please don't merely take our word for it, but see it in our actions.” This is an often-heard closing to public prayers at GCC. This closing is a declaration of our resolve not merely to talk the talk of Christlikeness, but to walk the walk. Ephesians 4:24 calls us to “put on the new self.” Verses 17:32 explain what this looks like.

Topic: Christlikeness is journey we walk. “Walking” is a way the Bible describes how we live. Paul contrasts the how the unbelievers walk—in the futility and darkness of their mind, alienated from life in God, hardness of heart, calloused, impure, and greedy (4:17-19). As Christians, we called to “be renewed in the spirit of your mind and to put on the new man” (4:23-24).

- Darkened minds and hardened hearts are the hallmarks of the unbeliever. What causes darkened minds? What causes hardened hearts?
- Is ignorance or disbelief a bigger issue in the minds of unbelievers you know? Explain.
- Renewing the mind is an important springboard for Christian living. In what ways can we renew our minds?
- A renewed mind can more easily put on the new self. How many aspects of the new self do you count in verses 24-32?
- What does verse 30 indicate is the result of failing to walk in Christlikeness?

Association: Recall your BC days, consider your current Christlike walk, and consider a walk worthy of the calling with which we have been called.

- Before Christ, was your problem more a mental or more of a heart problem? Explain.
- How do you seek to renew your mind in Christ? What approaches do you like best?
- Which of the aspects of the new self-described in verses 24-32 are the toughest for you?
- How do you think verse 27—not giving the devil an opportunity—fits into your life?
- How do you actively seek to build up others with your words?
- How often do you consider that your life may grieve the Holy Spirit? Elaborate.

Guidance: Each of us needs the Spirit to renew our minds and to help us decide to put on the new self and walk the Christlike walk. There must be a collaboration with the Holy Spirit. While He does the work, we are not passive in the process. This passage is filled with imperative directives that we are to employ. Yet, we cannot do these imperatives with the Spirit's leading.

- How do you focus on renewing your mind? What do you recommend your partner try?
- How do you actively put on the new self? What do you recommend your partner try?
- Describe how you seek to balance your part and the Spirit's part in these processes?
- Consider this on RightNow Media—“Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life” by Kyle Idleman: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/920259>
- Pray with and for each other concerning the Christlike walk.