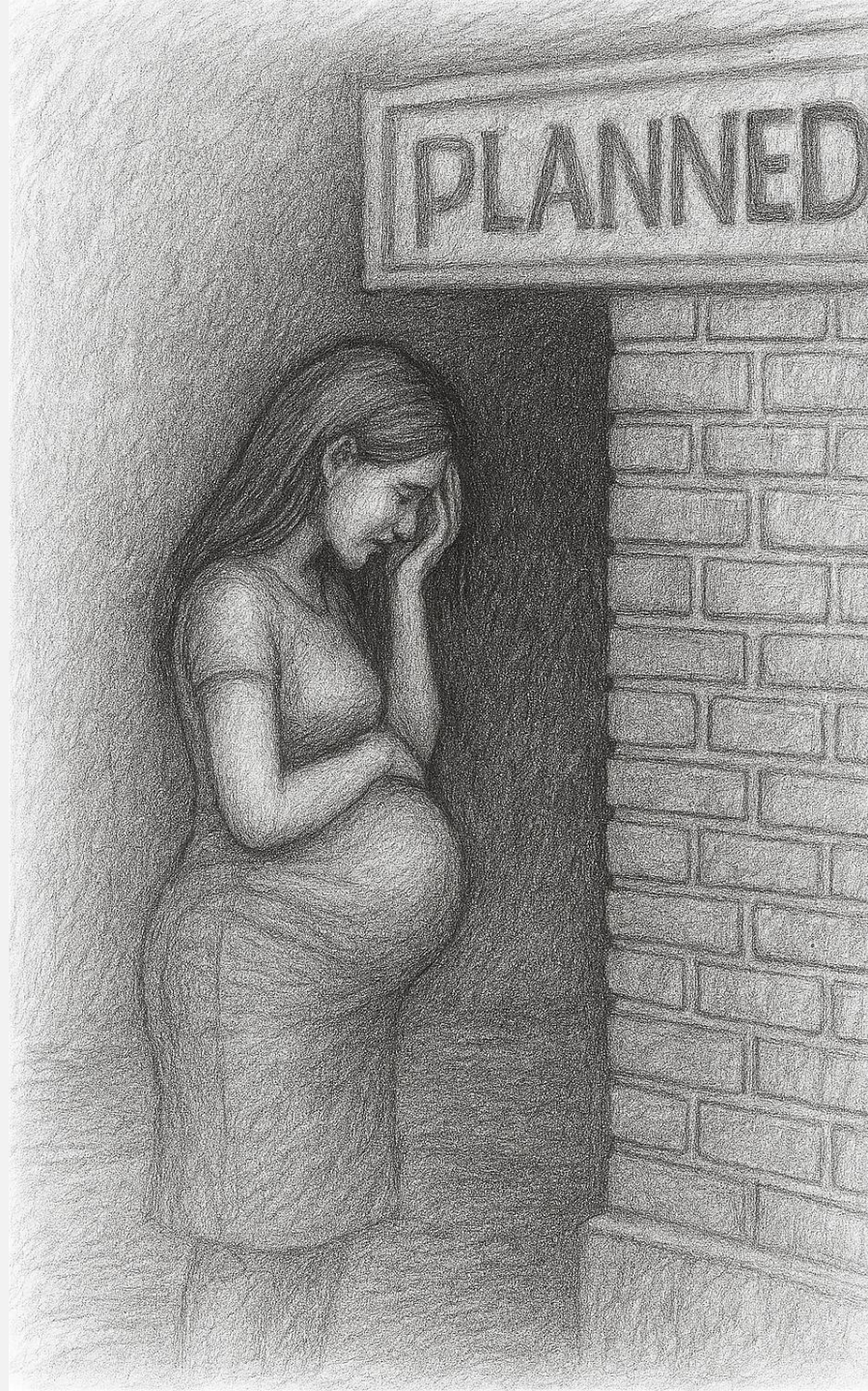


# EPHESIANS



## **Ephesians 4:1 – 16 - Recap**

- **Unity comes from God, not man.**
- **We are called to preserve unity, not create it.**
- **Spiritual gifts are given by Christ for service.**
- **Leaders are given to train.**
- **Spiritual maturity leads to doctrinal stability and love.**
- **A loving, unified church is a testimony (light) to the world.**



56%

**How do you describe the  
typical Christian life?**

## **The Call to Walk Differently (4:17)**

- **Ephesians 4:17 - So I tell you this, and **insist on it in the Lord**, that you must no longer **live** as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. (NIV)**
- **Positive command: Walk worthy (v.1)**
- **Negative command: Walk no longer as Gentiles (v.17)**
- **Gentile walk / course of life = futility of mind, darkened understanding.**

## **Characteristics of the Gentile Walk (4:17-19)**

- **Futility of mind – No hope!**
- **Darkened understanding – No divine perspective.**
- **Ignorance and hardness of heart – No longer feel the weight of sin.**
- **Callousness and sensuality – Dead consciences.**
- **Greedy for impurity – Self above all.**

## **Walk No Longer as the Gentiles (4:17-19)**

- **“In the heathen world Paul saw three terrible things. He saw men’s hearts so petrified that they were not even aware that they were sinning; he saw men so dominated by sin that shame was lost and decency forgotten; he saw men so much at the mercy of their desires that they did not care whose life they injured and whose innocence they destroyed so long as these desires were satisfied.”**
  - William Barclay, *The Daily Bible Study Series: The Letters to the Galatians and the Ephesians* (Philadelphia, PA, The Westminster Press, 1976), 154

## **Why the Warning? (4:20-24)**

- **Why do you think Paul is telling the believing Ephesians not to walk in this fashion? Why give them this warning?**
- **Believers can fall back into old patterns of life.**
- **Paul holds up a mirror to their past culture and says be different.**
- **Reminder: We are new creations. We didn't learn Christ this way!**

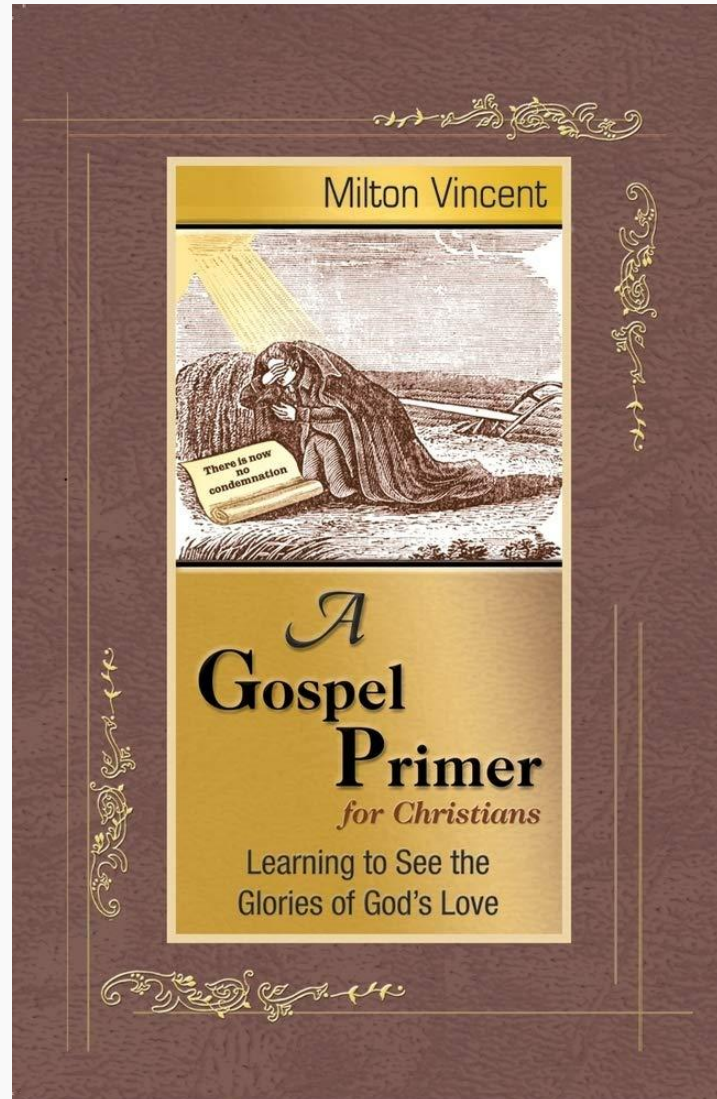
## **Learning Christ (4:20-24)**

- **Ephesians 4:20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (NASB)**

## **Learning Christ (4:20-21)**

- **Not just facts · personal relationship.**
- **Christ is the truth. Christ is truth! Through their leaders speaking about Christ, they had heard Christ.**
- **In our personal relationship with Christ, we have intimate knowledge of Christ.**

# Laid Aside / Put On / Renewed Mind (4:22-24)



## **Laid Aside / Put On / Renewed Mind (4:22-24)**

- **We are positionally righteousness at the moment of salvation. We have laid aside and put on. This can't be lost!**
  - **Colossians 3:9-14**
  - **Galatians 3:26**
- **Daily, moment by moment, renewal of the mind is essential for a worthy walk.**

## **Practical Instructions (4:25-32)**

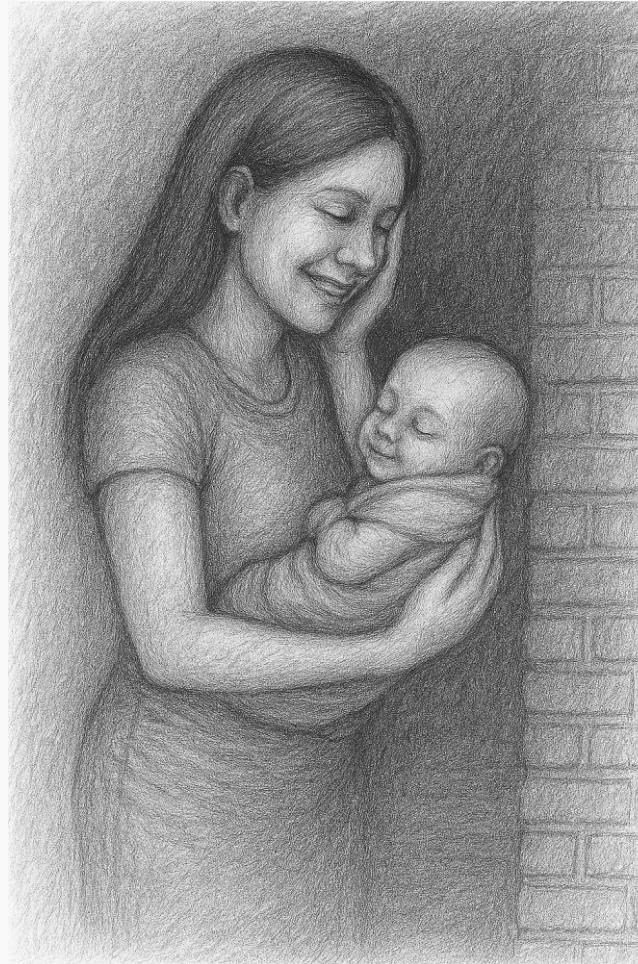
- **Stop lying · Speak truth. Is it ever better to avoid speaking truth?**
- **Be angry · Do not sin. Is anger every permissible scripturally?**
- **Stop stealing · Work and give.**
- **No unwholesome talk · Speak grace**
- **Put away all bitterness... · Be kind and forgive as you have been forgiven by Christ.**

## **Application & Reflection**

- **How does our past, pre-Christ, thinking still affect us?**
- **Are we renewing our minds daily? What does that look like?**
- **Are our relationships marked by truth, grace, and forgiveness?**

# Application & Reflection

- Are our relationships marked by truth, grace, and forgiveness?



## **Application & Reflection - Psalms 4**

**1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.**

**2 O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception? Selah.**

**3 But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; The LORD hears when I call to Him.**

**4 Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.**

**5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And trust in the LORD.**

**6 Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O LORD!**

**7 You have put gladness in my heart, More than when their grain and new wine abound.**

**8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety. (NASB)**