



Ephesians

FINDING OUR IDENTITY

Eph 4:17-24

Eph 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

The way the old man walks

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Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Our temporal identity must decrease in order for the glory of Christ's eternal identity to increase. *John 3:30*

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1) *Vanity of the mind*

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Psa 144:4 Man is like to vanity: his days [are] as a shadow that passeth away.

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- 2) Lack of understanding*

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- 1) Vanity of the mind*
- 2) Lack of understanding*

Jhn 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. ... 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

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Eph 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk,

- 1) Vanity of the mind*
- 2) Lack of understanding*
- 3) On the outside*

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The way the old man walks

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- 4) Given over to lasciviousness*

*19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, :
to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

The way the old man walks

Eph 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk,

20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Christ freed us from the
bondage of sin and his
identity frees us from the
cycle of sin. *Jhn 8:31-36*

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

We are always in danger of
putting on the old man and
re-treading old paths. *Jhn 8:31-36*

Overcoming the old man and the old ways

1) Put off the old man

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22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Overcoming the old man and the old ways

1) Put off the old man

*Rom 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.
13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

When we are tempted, we must consciously reject the old identity and embrace the new identity in Christ.

Overcoming the old man and the old ways

2) Renew the spirit of your mind

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

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23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

A genuine relationship
with Christ is the key to
renewing your mind.

Overcoming the old man and the old ways

2) Renew the spirit of your mind

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Overcoming the old man and the old ways

3) Put on the new man

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

We must choose to order our steps
in light of our gospel identity.

