

Directional Devo
Letter to the Ephesians
Ephesians 4:17-25
4/11/16

vv.17-19 *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

In lieu of the aforementioned that we as Christians should be growing in our faith, speaking the truth in love, understanding that we are each a unique part of the body of Christ, we should not be walking *as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind* because they are *alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart*, and therefore are *past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness*.

vv.20-21 *But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

Instead he says, Jesus did not teach us to live that way.

v.22 *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*

We're to put off the way of life that our flesh ("old man") wants us to lead.

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Notice *deceitful lusts*

Cf. James 1:13-16

Let no man say that he is tempted by God.

The Devil is the tempter and he can only play on our own lusts.

1 John 2:15-16

v.23 *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

From this we must conclude that salvation involves the mind.

Of course, it is as that a conscious decision must be made for Christ.

However, in the context, he is going beyond the initial salvation experience.

He is saying that continued renewal also involves the mind.

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

2 Corinthians 10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Cf. Col 3:1-2, 10

v.24 *and that you put on the new man which was **created according to God**, in true **righteousness and holiness**.*

The renewal that takes place at initial conversion, and a constant decision thereafter, brings about a new man.

Again 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

This new man has been **created according to God** in that the old man no longer exists.

Again Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

This new man walks in true **righteousness and holiness**.

That righteousness and holiness comes from God alone if we walk in obedience.

v.25 *Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.*

While on the subject of the new man he gives several things that a new man should not be engaged in, the first being the sin of lying or bearing false witness.

Some commentators feel that he was led by the Spirit to address this because lying was a vice of the ancient world. They actually prided themselves in their ability to do it well.

The application for us is that lying is lying.

One commentator points out that lying is more than simply telling falsehoods.

It also includes exaggeration and adding fabrication.

It includes cheating, making foolish promises, betraying a confidence, and making false excuses are all forms of lying, with which Christians should have no part.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."