

## Lesson 7

### Read Ephesians chapter 4

#### The darkness of unbelief

1. In verse 1 Paul entreated (or begged) the Ephesians to live a life that reflected their new position as children of God. How does he emphasize the importance of what he is saying in verse 17a?

I tell you & insist on it

2. What is the example that Paul uses to contrast how they should now be living? (17b)

Like Gentiles - in the futility of their thinking

3. Look back to chapter 2:1-3. How is the life of an unbeliever described?

Dead in transgressions & sins, disobedient, following the world & Satan, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature & following its thoughts and desires

4. According to Titus 1:15 & 16, what two things are defiled/broken?

Minds & consciences

5. Using Ephesians 4:17, 18 & 19, list the progression of spiritual darkness in the lives of those who reject the truth.

Futility of thinking.....darkened in understanding.....separated from life of God.....hardened hearts.....loss of sensitivity.....given over to sensuality.....indulging in every kind of impurity.....lust for more

6. Consider Romans 1:21-23. Make a similar list of the degeneration of unbelievers described here.

Knew God, but didn't glorify Him as God.....didn't give Him thanks.....thinking became futile.....hearts were darkened.....claimed to be wise.....became fools.....exchanged glory of God for images made to look like man, birds, animals and reptiles

7. As this alienation progresses, what terrifying action can result? (Romans 1:24 and 28)

God gives them over to their own depravity

8. How can a person escape the blindness and the depravity that sin causes in our lives? See 2 Cor. 4:3-6 and John 1:1-13

God can shine light in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God.....Christ is the true light and He gives us the right to become children of God

### **The light of the truth**

9. If you have acknowledged the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior and your lord, what things are true in your life according to I Cor. 6:11?

Washed, sanctified, justified in the name of Christ & by the Spirit

10. In Ephesians 4:20 Paul begins to show us the contrast between the mind and life of the unbeliever and the mind and life of the Christian. According to verse 21, where do we find truth?

In Jesus

11. What did Jesus say about "truth" in John 14:6?

I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me.

12. Jesus prayed for us to be sanctified in the truth. What is the source of truth in John 17:17?

"your word is truth"

13. In Ephesians 4:22 we are told to "lay aside" the old self with its corruption and lusts of deceit. What part of a believer needs to be renewed? (vs 23)

The attitude of the mind

14. What assurance does God offer us that this renewal is possible? see II Peter 1:3&4

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him

15. After we have laid aside the old self, we can put on the new self. Since it is in the likeness of God, what are two of its characteristics? (Ephesians 4:24)

### True righteousness and holiness

16. Verses 25-32 show us the contrasts between living for self and living for Christ. Fill in the chart below: (You may not find information for all three columns in every verse.)

	Living an ungodly lifestyle:	Living to honor Christ:	Why:
vs. 25	Put off falsehood	Speak truthfully	We are member of His body
vs.26/27	Do not sin in your anger	Don't let the sun go on your anger	You could give the devil a foothold
vs. 28	Don't steal	Work & share	To have something to share
vs. 29	No unwholesome talk	Speak what is helpful for building others up	Benefit those who listen
vs 30/31	Grieve the Holy Spirit	Get rid of bitterness, rage & anger, brawling, slander & malice	We are sealed for the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit
vs. 32		Be kind & compassionate & forgiving	Because Christ forgave us

## Read Ephesians 5:1-21

### Righteous living

17. In verse 1, we are described as "beloved children". Because we are loved and because God is our father, what should we strive to do? (vs. 1)

### Be imitators of God

18. Verse 1 begins with the word "therefore", so we need to look back to the preceding verse (4:32) to follow Paul's logic. What should be our motivation for these instructions that we are about to receive?

### Christ forgave us

19. Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, so we should also walk in [love](#) towards each other. (vs. 2)
20. Compare Romans 8:29 and I Peter 1:14-16. We are not to be conformed to [evil desires](#) but instead to the [holiness of God \(or likeness of His Son\)](#)
21. If we are truly conformed to His image, we will be [holy](#). (I Peter 1:15 & 16)

### **Righteous conversation**

22. What three things should not even be named among Christians according to Ephesians 5:3?

[Sexual immorality, impurity or greed](#)

23. Now Paul addresses the believer's words. What is totally out of place in a Christian's conversation? (vs. 4)

[Obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking](#)

24. In contrast, what does please the Lord? (vs. 4b)

[Thanksgiving](#)

25. According to Romans 6:12 & 13, how are we to present ourselves to God?

[As those who have been brought from death to life & offer body as instrument of righteousness](#)

### **The fruit of righteousness**

26. Read Ephesians 5:5 & 6. Often today, as it was in Ephesus, we are taught that we need to be "tolerant" of others and that we don't have any right to judge other's behavior. We are to treat all people with love and compassion, but what do these verses tell us that we should know with certainty?

[No immoral, impure, greedy person has any inheritance with Christ - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on the disobedient](#)

27. Consider verses 7-14. What differences between believers and unbelievers should be obvious to anyone who is watching?

Don't be partners with them - live as children of light - goodness, righteousness, truth - pleasing the Lord - it's shameful even to think about the things done in darkness

28. According to Romans 12:1-3, how can we learn what is God's good, pleasing and perfect will?

Don't conform to the world, but offer body as a living sacrifice & transform your mind - then you'll be able to test & approve God's will

29. Christians are children of light (Ephesians 5:8) What happens when the light of Christ is lived out near the unfruitful deeds of darkness? (vs. 11-13)

They are exposed for what they really are

***Verse 14 could also be translated "stand up out of the dead ones". In other words, don't be ashamed to be different and to let your newness in Christ become obvious. Remember the admonition in verse 1 to be imitators of God.***

30. What powerful tool has God provided to teach, reprove, rebuke and exhort both ourselves and fellow believers? Psalm 119:105, 119:130, 2 Tim. 3:16 & 17

His Word

31. Read Ephesians 5:15-21. Once again we are admonished to live wisely. Why is this important, according to verse 16?

Because the days are evil

***In verse 18 we are commanded not to "get drunk with wine" which is debauchery (extreme indulgence). Instead of being controlled by substance abuse, we should be controlled by the Spirit.***

32. What very tangible actions are tied to being filled with the Spirit? (vs. 19) Compare also Col. 3:16.

Our words - encouraging each other & giving thanks to God

33. What should be the hallmark of all believers? (vs. 20) See also Heb. 13:15.

A thankful heart - praise to God