

## The New Life; Ephesians 4:20-24

- I. Change
  - a. Change can be very difficult
    - i. Old habits are hard to break
    - ii. Learning new ways to live involves new routines
    - iii. It takes between 3 weeks and 2 months to create a new habit
    - iv. This does not include addictions
  - b. The old self belongs to our former manner of life and must be 'put off'
- II. Put off
  - a. God says to 'put off your old self' (verse 22)
  - b. There are long lists of behaviors that belong to our old lives
  - c. Ephesians 4:25 (ESV) <sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
    - i. Lying is considered socially acceptable in our society
    - ii. We even have biblical accounts of lying that were not punished by God
    - iii. Abraham deceived Pharaoh by telling him that Sarai was his sister in Genesis 12
    - iv. Isaac does the same thing with Abimelech in Genesis 26
    - v. Proverbs 6:16–19 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.
    - vi. Revelation 21:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
    - vii. God hates lying
  - d. Ephesians 4:26–27 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil.
    - i. Anger is very big today – everyday there is a story in the news about road rage, or someone fighting over a mistake in their food order
    - ii. Not very long ago, people took their anger for the government out on communities by rioting
    - iii. Anger is not the issue, sin is
    - iv. By allowing anger to rule over us we give the devil opportunity to whisper in our ear
  - e. Ephesians 4:28 (ESV) <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
    - i. Our current standards in society tell us that it is okay to rob from people who have more than we do

- ii. “Gone in Sixty Seconds” (the original) glorifies car theft because they are stealing from the insurance companies who are rich
  - iii. “Robin Hood” (the legend not the movies) were born from the idea that it is okay to steal from those who have more than you do
  - iv. Today, we have the idea of ‘redistribution of wealth’ which is based on the same principle – it is okay to take from someone who has more than you
  - v. Having wealth is not the problem and it never was
  - vi. The problem is our heart and attitude towards wealth
  - vii. “Live like no other so that you can live (and give) like no other” Dave Ramsey
  - viii. 1 Timothy 6:17–19 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.
  - ix. God wants us to earn wealth so that we can share it
- f. Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- i. Exactly what is corrupting talk?
  - ii. Literally, of such poor quality as to be of little or no value, *bad, not good*, bad or unwholesome to the extent of being harmful, bad, evil, unwholesome, in a moral sense <sup>1</sup>
  - iii. There are a lot of words that have little or no value, that are unwholesome
  - iv. We often try to rationalize the way we speak
  - v. Colossians 3:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
  - vi. Speech of a kind that is generally considered in poor taste, obscene *speech, dirty talk* <sup>2</sup>
  - vii. Ephesians 5:4 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
- g. This is by no means an all-inclusive list of what to ‘put off’
- III. Complete Change
- a. God says to ‘put on the new self’ (verse 24)
    - i. Ephesians 4:24 (ESV) <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
    - ii. Next week we will look at what god wants us to put on (The New Life, Part II)
  - b. We were created after the likeness of God, in His image
  - c. Therefore, we cannot let society dictate what is good, only God

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 913.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 29.