

EPHESIANS

Lesson 6 - Chapter 4:11-32

This section of Chapter 4 continues describing what is involved in *walking worthy of the high calling* in Christ, with unity in the body. We will look at offices of spiritual leadership and the Lord's purpose for them. This section also includes Paul's exhortation to *put off* certain behaviors and to *put on* others as he teaches the church how to walk as the "new" man.

Pray that the Lord will use this study to encourage unity in the church and remind you of the importance of your position in the body of Christ.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is Ephesians 4:32.

*"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God in Christ forgave you."*

Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

In Ephesians 4:11 Paul lists offices of spiritual leadership in the church: "*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers...*"

1. These are also included in the 1 Corinthians 12 teaching about Spiritual gifts.
 - a. What important truth about the source of these gifts is explained in 1 Cor 12:4-6?
 - b. How does 1 Cor 12:7 describe the purpose of the Spiritual gifts?
2. What purpose does Paul give for these offices in Ephesians 4:12?
3. Paul goes on in Ephesians 4:13 to describe more specifically the goals of these offices for each Christian. List them below.

4. We are to *no longer be children*, according to verse 14.
 - a. In what way does Paul describe the actions of children here?
 - b. Write the alternative to these childish behaviors given in Ephesians 4:15.
 - c. What does this mean to you?

5. This section ends with verses 15-16, a beautiful description of the body of Christ when it operates in His grace and unity.
 - a. Who must be the head or authority in the body?
 - b. The whole body is *joined and knit together* by “*what every joint supplies.*” What does this mean?
 - c. What is the result?

Read Ephesians 4:17-24.

We now look at Paul’s description of the old man and the new man in Christ, and the very specific things we must “*put off*” and “*put on*” to *walk worthy* of the calling of Christ.

1. Paul describes the Gentiles, meaning the unbelievers, as we all once were! Explain the characteristics of the “old man” given in each of the following verses.
 - a. Ephesians 4:17
 - b. Ephesians 4:18
 - c. Ephesians 4:19

2. “*But you have not so learned Christ...*” Complete this thought by writing Ephesians 4:21 below.

3. Write what we have learned from the teaching of Christ to “put off” and “put on” from Ephesians 4:22-24.

a. Put off -

b. Put on -

4. Colossians 3:8-14 gives more instructions about what needs to be “put off” and “put on” to walk in the newness of life in Christ. Read these verses and list what you find for each column below.

Put Off	Put On

5. The reality is that we are made new, but in our flesh we sometimes let the old man back in and then we have to make a conscious decision to put off that part of the old man again. Maybe you saw one or more places of weakness, where you know your flesh wants to slip back into that old man. Take it to the Lord right now and “renew” your mind in that area. Use this space to write a prayer thanking the Lord for His provision for our new life.

6. In Ephesians and Colossians we find the same word, *renew*, an important instruction that is key to putting on the new man. What do the following scriptures tell us about this?

a. Ephesians 4:23

b. Colossians 3:10

c. How can we do this?

7. What more do you find in the following verses about our minds?

a. Romans 12:2

b. Philippians 4:8

Read Ephesians 4:25-32.

This section continues to teach what a *walk worthy of the calling* should look like in our daily walk by describing specific examples of things we are to do and not to do.

1. Ephesians 4:25 clearly tells us to *put away lying*. What do these scriptures tell us about how God views lying?

a. Exodus 20:16

b. Proverbs 6:16-19

c. Proverbs 12:22

2. Instead of lying, from Ephesians 4:25, what are we to do? Why?

3. Ephesians 4:26-27 talks about anger. It recognizes that the new man may get angry, but he can choose a reaction to that anger that is not sin.

a. What would it look like practically to be angry and not sin?

b. How does giving in to our anger give place to the devil?

4. Paul spoke against stealing in Ephesians 4:28.

a. What does he say they should do instead and why?

b. How does this benefit the whole body of Christ?

5. The next verse deals with the tongue. Before we look at the verse in Ephesians 4:29, read the following verses and write what you find about the tongue.

a. Proverbs 12:18

b. Proverbs 26:20

c. James 3:2-6

6. Write what to say and what not to say from Ephesians 4:29.

a. Don't say –

b. Do say –

c. Write out Psalm 141:3 below as a prayer to help you with the temptations of the tongue.

7. Ephesians 4:30 tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. In the following scriptures, what are some things that might grieve the Holy Spirit?

a. Mark 3:5

b. Hebrew 3:10

The Holy Spirit's grief is not of a petty, oversensitive nature. (Spurgeon) "He is grieved with us mainly for our own sakes, for he knows what misery sin will cost us; he reads our sorrows in our sins... He grieves over us because he sees how much chastisement we incur, and how much communion we lose."

8. We end this chapter with two more verses contrasting what we are to put off or away of the old man and what we should put on or do as the new man. Contrast these two lists. You might even match opposite actions or attitudes.

Ephesians 4:31

Ephesians 4:32

In closing...

1. Ephesians 4:32 describes the actions and attitudes we are to reflect as we *walk worthy of the calling*, but Colossians 3:14 sums it up in one word.

a. What word represents how we should walk?

b. How does this one word cover all of the individual instructions from this lesson?

2. After reading all of the character traits we are to walk out it is important to remember how we are able to do this. Explain below and include scriptures if you can.

Memory Verse

*“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God in Christ forgave you.”*

Ephesians 4:32