

Sermon Series: *Identity*

7/12/26, “Leaving the Old,” Eph. 4:17-24

INTRODUCTION

People receive Christ but have no victory

MAIN IDEA: Live the new life Jesus has given you. How? Here are 2 things to do.

I. First, lay aside our former way of life (22, 17-19)

Put off: lay aside, cast off, completely discard

A. put to death our old self—*not improve or make better but deny its lusts, refusing to feed it* (22)

1. corrupted by our deceitful lusts... *desires deceive*
2. futile (vanity of our minds, 17-19)

●darkened understanding ●hard-hearted ●excluded from God
●ignorant of God’s ways ●calloused

3. sensual (*insatiable desire for pleasure*, 19)
4. having rottenness (*impurity with greediness*, 19)
5. crucified with Jesus—*consider dead* (**Gal. 2:20**)

B. seek out tentacles tying us to our old way of life

1. **unhelpful coping mechanisms:** *alcohol, spending*
2. **strongholds:** *addiction, bitterness, unlovable*
3. **wrong conclusions:** *I can’t change, I can’t trust anyone, isolation keeps me safe*
4. **pride:** *I’m great; I’m awful*
5. **believing some sin is OK**

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, let the Spirit rule us (20-24)

A. be renewed in the spirit of our mind

Ephesians 4:23, CEV: Let the Spirit change your way of thinking.

1. pray daily & without ceasing (**1Thess. 5:17**)

2. be in the Word... *read, study, memorize*

Psalms 119:11, NLT: I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

3. take every thought captive (**2Cor. 10:5**)

4. think on things that are true, just, pure (**Php. 4:8**)

B. put on our new nature...*created by God in righteousness & in true holiness*

Put on: to sink in, enter

1. slow down acting, reacting—*so as to obey Him*
2. fix our eyes on Jesus (Heb. 12:2)—*right focus*
3. deny ourselves & follow Jesus (**Matt. 16:24**)... *live as He did & would now*

C. remove tentacles

1. turn to Jesus when stressed, troubled

1Thess. 5:16-18, MEV: 16 Rejoice always. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks,

Philippians 4:6, NLT: Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

2. submit to God, resist devil—*confess, renounce, obey (ex: forgive)*
3. be teachable, humble—*willing to accept truth apart from experience*
4. choose humility—*God is great; I am valued*
5. repent of *all* sin, including pride

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: