

*Learning To Walk Differently*

Title: ~~stop living like the unbeliever~~

Text; Ephesians 4:17-20

Ephesians chapter 4, please....Ephesians chapter 4 verse 17..

(Read 4:17-20)

Prayer

These are most challenging verses. I almost wish they were not here in the Bible. If they were not here, I would not have to deal with them and apply them to my life. It would be a lot easier. But they are...and we must deal with them.

(10) Basically these verses are saying: STOP LIVING YOUR LIFE LIKE AN UNBELIEVER! You see, it assumes that it is possible for a christian to live like a non-christian. And <sup>in Bible</sup> Paul says STOP THAT!!!!

Now, I would like to start by saying ..THAT IS TOUGH ".....Dear friends it is really tough to do that. Every day that you and I live in this old secular world, it is tough to live and not be living like an unbeliever.

We inhale and exhale that secular environment...that philosophy of the person of the street every single day of our life. Many of you go to work or school right in the midst of that secular environment. And you are constantly absorbing it. <sup>we</sup> You watch it on T.V. The theaters are filled with it. Everything is dominated by the secular philosophy of this world.

And we come to this refreshing...yet difficult statement...DON'T LIVE LIKE THE UNBELIEVER. - *That's what Colos is talking us*

20 Now, I want to look at these verses and try to put them in perspective for you. Vs 17, Paul uses the word "therefore" once again. It reminds us that what he is going to say in the next few verses is based upon what he has just finished saying. In Vs 1 thru 16 He told us that we needed to have unity within the body of Christ....we need to have edification....we need to build one another up in the love of God.....THEREFORE..in order to do that we need to refuse to live like an unbeliever.

I think there is a simple point here. That is, that we all need to be careful about our life style. LIVING LIKE UNBELIEVERS, will keep us from ministering to each other in love. Every single time. As soon as the world dominates what we think, what we do, and what we say,.....as soon as that is the controlling factor, you can just kiss ministry good by. You will start pulling away from building up other christians in love. You will spend more time with your own pleasures and desires, with the world system dominating you and what you want to accomplish out there, that will become primary to you. And ministry to some other christian, helping to build them up in love will become secondary and unimportant.

WATCH IT CHRISTIANS. It is more important for you to build up another Christian in Christ, and to encourage them to be strong in the Lord, then it is for you to make job promotion, to achieve that class grade, or whatever.

~~We need to be very careful about the unbelieving life style.~~

Let me point out several areas where ~~that is effected.....~~ *we are to stop living like they walk*

(1) One, deals with goals...He says in Vs 17 that we are not to walk as the Gentiles "in the futility of their minds."

The word "futility" simply has the idea of "aimlessness." No purpose... No results..in your life. "VANITY" is another translation.

It is vanity and aimlessness and purposelessness in the mind, he says. In this case the place of recognizing moral and spiritual ~~truth.~~ *values*

Let me put it another way. The unbelievers are characterized by one thing: A LACK OF MORAL DIRECTION.

And that is what we see in our world today. Mentally, they lack moral direction in their life. And he says, "believers don't get in that trap."

He is assuming that it is possible for us to do that. That you can be a believer, yet, so controlled by the world system that all of a sudden you lack goals, you lack purpose.

Paul said in P<sub>h</sub>ilippians 3, if you would like to turn over there. Philippians chapter 3...One of the classic statements on having correct goals in your life. WHAT ARE YOU REALLY LIVING FOR? WHERE IS YOUR MIND SET? WHAT ARE YOU SET ON DOING IN YOUR LIFE AND ITS MEANING?

In Philipians chapter 3 verse 7 Paul writes:...(READ Vs 7-14) AMEN?

Man! you couldn't put it any more beautifully then that! Whatever in life seems to be the biggie....to everybody else...Paul says I count it all as garbage. It is nothing by comparison to Jesus Christ. And I am looking forward to being with him forever. And the rewards of that are far greater than all the so called reward and goodies of this life.

Unbelievers lack moral direction and lack goals in their life and in the futility of thier mind.

(2) The Second area deals with understanding. And the Bible says in Ephesians 4 verse 18 that these unbelievers are "being darkened in their understanding."

And that is true of people who are <sup>not Christian</sup> ~~unbelievers~~. They don't have the ability to literally <sup>understand spirit things</sup> ~~think through things~~. Which is the meaning of the word "understanding." It is the word "THINK" and the word "through." They don't think through the things that are happening out there and seeing whether they are based on moral principle or not. Whether they are based on what is right or what is wrong. ~~An~~ unbeliever doesn't think that way.

<sup>and apparent</sup> ~~What he is saying is:~~ there is a tragedy among believers that we begin to live like that. Where we stop thinking <sup>spiritually</sup> ~~through things~~. That we all of a sudden become darkened in our understanding.

And obviously it is because we stop paying attention to the truth of God's Word. When we get away from God's Word our understanding becomes weak. So when we see what is happening in society we tolerate that which is wrong simply because we <sup>do not apply Biblical principle</sup> ~~can't think it through~~. We can't see really what is behind it.

UNDERSTANDING? Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:14 "the natural man" ..that is the one who operates only on the bases of what it thinks or feels or whatever..."he cannot accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned." *So Stop Living as if you had no understanding*

True discernment comes because we use God's Word. Hebrews 5 says that by using the Word of God our senses are discerned as to what is right and what is wrong.....Good and evil.....

No one knows what is right..No one knows what is wrong...in any situation. That does not find that moral discernment from what God actually says in His Word. It is the word of God that is sharper than any two-edged sword. And is able to penetrate to the dividing point of the soul and spirit. And is a judge of the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Only the Bible, an objective standard, can criticize my motivations and my intentions, as to whether they are right or they are wrong.

So...Satan's great deception is to get Christians to think that they can run on the gas of salvation. That you do not need to come to the Book to find what is right and what is wrong. You can trust yourself and knowing Christ to do what is right. THAT IS A BIG LIE.

You do not have it within yourself, just because you are a Christian, the ability to discern and to think through things and to have the understanding that God wants you to have. It isn't a hypodermic needle which contains all spiritual truth and somehow is shot into your veins. NOT TRUE....

Once you receive Jesus, it is only the beginning of learning. It is only the beginning of understanding. And we have to continually come to the Word, and ask God, What is right. What is wrong.

(3 ) A third area in which we must refuse to live as an unbeliever deals with the relationship we have with God.

*as if God didn't exist*

According to Vs 18 the unbeliever is excluded from the life of God. And he gives two reasons.

*lives as if God doesn't exist*

(1 ) One, because of the ignorance that is in them; and (2 ) two, because of the hardness of their heart.

*ad apparent Christian char  
live as if God doesn't exist - STOP THEM*

Now, the amazing thing here is that the statement excluded from the life of God that life, that eternal life, believers have positionally. But he is indicating that it is possible in this text, as a believer, to live like an unbeliever who lives excluded from God's life.

*or alienated*

I take that to mean that the two causes of them being alienated from God can somehow creep back in to the Christians life who has light from God.

*let me show you what I mean*

*only*

*mt*

I think these two reasons can effect the believer. And that is why he is telling us, DON'T WALK LIKE THE UNBELIEVER. This is true of the unbeliever all the time. But the believer can easily slip back into this problem.

(1 ) First, when he says spiritual ignorance, notice that he says that it is the ignorance that is in them. That is in the believer also. He is talking about the moral spiritual ignorance that is a part of our whole sin nature. The sin nature that is still in the life of the believer is morally and spiritually ignorant. And if we don't let God's Word control what we feel and think and do, then we will easily slip in and be dominated by a sin nature that is morally and spiritually ignorant of what is right and wrong.

(2 ) And the second problem can also happen to believers. He says because of hardness of heart. And the next statement in Vs 19 says "having become callous"

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A CALLOUS on your finger or hand or foot?.....Well, I have. And one time I decided to test the theory that where the callous there is no pain. So, I took a needle and sterilized the end stuck it right in the middle of that hard Callous. And you know what? NO PAIN...I didn't feel a thing. And then I move the pin to the side of the Callous and stuck into my skin....DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?....It hurt....But, the theory was right. The Callous had no pain.

And that is what happens in the Christians life. The Christian because he is saved thinks that he can never become hard or calloused to God, himself. And that is a big mistake.

Those of you who are Christians, have assurance of everlasting life. It is easy for you by following a simple life style or worldly pattern and ignoring the scripture, it is easy to develop that callous condition where you become hard and insensitive in your response towards God.

So you are no longer as warm as you once were with the Lord. You are getting very cool. Sometimes cold and down right apathetic and indifferent to what God's Word says in your life.

And that is what we are dealing with today. HOW DO YOU STOP THAT PROCESS? You are heading for disaster. Even though, right now, you might be in a spiritual limbo....Well, nothing serious. I am just not responding....

*cut*  
I am not really hot. And I am not really cold. So what are you? You are lukewarm....NOW! WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF THAT?...

Well, the Bible says that he wants to spit you out of his mouth. It is possible that this can happen to the believer.

(4) There is a <sup>Fault</sup> ~~fiveth~~ area that is effected. And that deals with moral responsibility. In Vs 19 he says, "And they having become callous." And

like I have just said, the word "callous" means "without pain." There is no sensitivity to pain or grief or what is right or wrong. Sinning doesn't hurt you anymore. And that is characteristic of an unbeliever. He can just keep going on and not be effected. And wonder what the christians are talking about. \* That is literally said today by people in high educational places. That morality is stupid, foolish and immature. If we just got rid of morals, we would all be a lot happier. Morality they say is false guilt. Now, if you have been in some of those classes you know what I am talking about. So called intellectuals who are destroying thier lives, literally, and could care less that society is going to Hell. They seem to say that if we got rid of morality, we wouldn't have any problems.

I have heard it all. Little joks...; little stupid statements that somehow indicate that the real problem is people who have standards of morality based on the scriptures. That is existing, right now, all around us.

Our text simple says that that is a characteristic of an unbeliever. But it shouldn't be in the life of the believer. But, the point of Vs 17 when he said "DON'T WALK ANY LONGER AS GENTILES WALK", he assumes that Believers are doing it. And all because you come to a point in your life, that you are no longer responding to moral principles anymore either. You are passed feeling. You no longer feel the pain and hurt as God feels. You are no longer hurt by sin. It doesn't boether you that Christian friends are following all around you. It doesn't hurt you anymore if sinful patterns and life styles are seen among the believers.

But, listen, this is a serious thing. Christians That is living like unbelievers. We ought to cry out to God when we hear that any brother or sister has fallen into sin. There ought to be moral concern in our hearts.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CHRISTIAN? That Causes that? Well we will come to that in a moment.

(6) <sup>Five D</sup> There is a ~~sixth~~ area that is effected. And that deals with sinful practices. Vs 19 says, "they have given themselves over to sensuality."

The word "sensuality" in Greek literally means "no cell-gay." And Cell-gay is a city. This ancient city is located in the middle of modern day Turkey. Right about in the middle of the country.

Cell-gay was a sotic city. They had a curfew a night. And the Roman soliders did not like to be assigned to this city. It was no fun. The stoics has a standard high morality. And the soldiers didn't like to go there. The Roman solider with his complete lack of morality. No moral senitiveity.. He didn't like to be stationed in that city. And they coined the name.. NO CELL-GAY....to explain what they really thought. NO CELL-GAY..Bother I don't want anything to do with that place.

And that is the word that Paul uses here. <sup>The Word</sup> It means "no restraints." "NO STANDARED OF MORALITY."

Notice the characteristic of the unbeliever and where he is headed. He is going to give himself, completely over to it, havingg no standard of morality.

John Dewy, and educator who effected public education in this country as no other man has every done, said: BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY AND DEMOCRACY CANNOT CO-EXIST."

He felt that the one major problem in American education was to do away with Biblical Christianity.

The secular humanist is still on that course, by the way. And that, frankly, is the philosphical reason why Christian schoøls have become so important in our day and age. I heard a statement by one educator who said: "By the year 2000 there will be more students in <sup>private</sup> Christians school then in the public schools." (MAY THE DAY COME!)

What I am saying, dear friends, is that what this text says they give themselves over to what you and I do not agree to. That is; "NO STANDARDS OF MORALITY,

And yet, you know what happens to christians? When they start living in the world? And they start loving sinful desires? And they start getting away from the Word? WE DO EXACTLY THE SAME THING.....

And we start discussion about Law and Liberty. We begin to think what God says in his Word is not "right" and "wrong", but it depends upon my interpretation. And the Bible was written for a different culture and it does not apply to us today. And some how sin is relative. I read christian books which deal with this whole subject. Books that teach that if God says it is sin, it depends on where it is found.

You know, dear friends, if it is sin in the O.T., it is sin in the N.T. Now, how I relate to that is a matter of application. Because now we are under grace not law.

But, don't you ever follow the so called teachings which present the idea that some how we are free to do things, today, that God says we are not free to do in the O.T.

There are <sup>things</sup> things that relate to law and practice and religious ciramony that certainly the N.T. indicated that we don't do today. But there are things called SIN that are still sin. And it hasn't changed. Immorality is imorality in the O.T. It is immorality in the N.T. It hasn't changed. Not a thing has changed.

He says here that they give themselves over to sensuality.

Let me try and show you why this is so important for you to understand. Because of the last days before Jesus comes again.

Turn over, please, to the book of Jude. The book of Jude---found right before Revelation. Jude...one chapter...And I want you to notice Vs 4... Jude...Vs 4...Vs 3 tells us to "contend earnestly". That means to stand fast, to struggle for the Faith. Don't give up.

Now, look at Vs 4. It tells you reason why you must be strong in your stand in what you believe about the Bible.

Vs 4 says "For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into WHAT?.....licentiousness....



Now, that is the same word translated "sensuality" in Ephesians chapter 4.

Notice, they turn the grace of God into a belief that has no standard of morality. That is what happens. They talk more about "grace" than they do about what is right. And that maybe good. It depends upon where they are headed. And it is true that "grace" is more important than "law", from the standpoint of where I am as a christian today. But, if I take the grace of God, and assume that that means that I don't have any moral standards in the Scriptures, I have just done to God's grace what he never intended. And I am a false teacher if I do that.

Now, if you are not convinced, turn back to 2 Peter chapter 2..And please notice how the word meaning "no standard of morality" is used. @ Peter chapter 2 is talking about false teaching in the ~~and~~ times.

Vs 1 says ..."But false prophets also arose among the people, jsut as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many will follow their WHAT?.....SENSUALITY.... It is the same word as Ephesians chapter 4.

In other words the characteristic of a false teacher is that he does away with the standard of morality. "And because of them the way of the truth will be maligned."

Look down, at Vs 7,...It is interesting that Lot had the same problem in Sodon and Gorrroma..He says "if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the <sup>sexual</sup> ~~sexual~~ conduct of unprincipled men.

The word "sensual" is the same word "no <sup>standard</sup> ~~sense~~ of morality." That was their conduct.

Look, please, down at Vs 18...Speaking of false teachers it says... "For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality." Same word. "No standard of morality." "Those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved."

WOW!!! Dear friends, I have never read a book that is so contemporary as the book of 2 Peter.

And we come back to Ephesians chapter 4 and we ask, "Paul, what are you saying?" He is saying, "I want the christian to stop living like the unbeliever. Because they give themselves over to no standard of morality.

And it is possible for christians to do the same thing if they are not careful.

Back to Ephesians 4, again. In dealing with this sinful practice, he did mention that there are two areas where you will see that. Vs 19 says.. "they give themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity or uncleanness...with greediness."

Now, friends, think with me. What characterizes christians today in the Evangelical world that is literally undermining our commitment to Jesus as L<sup>o</sup>rd? HAY! you ask any Bible teacher across this country of ours and they will all tell you the same thing: IT IS THE IMMORALITY THAT IS IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS TODAY. The wish and desire that comes out off the old sin ~~nature~~ nature to have more than God in his Word actual says we can have. That kind of greed and uncleanness comes from the old sin nature. That is what Satan tempts. And that is what happens in the unbeliever. And can happen in the christian's life, if he is not careful.

Now, do you know what the most beautiful word in this text is:~?... Look at Vs 20...It is the first word..."BUT"..... "But".....I love this word...

This is so simple. You know, all this corruption and sin, and this is the unbelieving life, and he says refuse it.....<sup>Why? Because</sup> ~~REFUSE~~.....YOU DID NOT LEARN CHRIST IN THIS WAY....

~~Oh, dear friends, how we do need to learn to respond to Jesus. We do need to learn to walk differently. You can't just walk differently by refusing sin. You don't set there in a vacuum and all of a sudden have it. We must respond to the Lord Jesus Christ.~~

~~And there are four things that he says ~~in~~ here that I want you drew to your attention.~~

*Prayer*

Title: Learning to Walk Differently

Text; Ephesians 4:20-24

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Ephesians chapter 4. I want to continue where I left off last Sunday. Ephesians chapter 4 beginning with Vs 20.....

( Read Vs 20-24 )

PRAYER

Now, by way of remainder, last week we looked at what happens when a Christians lives his life like an unbeliever. When a christian doesn't respond to the Word of God, he finds himself wandering far from the foot of the cross. And his life syle and his attitudes start coming under the contol of the world.....And Paul is saying .."HAY! DON'T DO THAT. WHY? BECAUSE YOU DID NOT LEARN CHRIST IN THIS WAY.

OH! dear friends, how we need to learn to respond to Jesus. We need to learn to walk differently then those who are not christians. Our lives must be different. Wemust walk differently than the unbelieveing person.

And in our scriputre text Paul gives us four tthings that we can do so that our lives will respond to God; and our lives will be different.

(2D) How Shoul! We respond to God!  
FOUR WONDERFUL PRINCIPLES.

Four Wonderful principles

So - if this is true, we need to stop living like the Unbelieve. We need to live different. We need to live as would be please, to God. Learn to respond to jesus. Our live must be different. - How?

In verses 20-24, Paul give us four principle that we can do so that our lives will respond to God. And our lives will be different

*The just principle*  
 (1) ~~One~~ deals with the point of conversion. We need to go back to that point and remind ourselves of what that was. Vs 20 says "But you did not learn Christ."

He is not talking about a process of learning. It's in the Aorist tense. Meaning..it happened at a point in time. It is referring to conversion. The point you actually ~~know~~ *came to know Jesus*.

He said, "You didn't learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him." This little word "if" isn't referring to the idea of "maybe" or perhaps." It is a first class condition meaning "if" and "indeed it is true that you did." *it is referring to the word*

Or, we could translate "since we have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus."

Notice...in the world "non truth". In Jesus...."truth".

When you came to know Jesus, do you know what happened? The truth set you free. That truth is still in Jesus, dear friends. Jesus said what?..."I am the way..the truth..and the life. And no man comes to the Father except by me," Do you want to know what is morally right and wrong in any situation? Do you want to know what God really wants you to do? THE TRUTH IS IN JESUS. God back to the point of conversion and realize that that is the point of truth.

And you know..that ~~demands~~ *longer* assurance? Because what he is indicating here is that Christians who live as unbelievers forget and begin to doubt and question their salvation. *And they lack assurance*

Assurance ...if indeed you have heard Him. The point is...you have heard Him...You have been taught...Remember you didn't learn Christ that way.

*Beel remember that cause*  
 So, if you are living that way you have forgotten the point of conversion. ~~And that demands~~ assurance again to come into your heart that you really belong to Christ. And the truth is in Him. When I accepted Jesus as Lord that competes it. I didn't say, Myself as Lord...I didn't say the pleasures of the world are Lord...I didn't say the state is Lord. I didn't say any of that.  
 I said JESUS IS LORD.

*The second principle*

(2) Let's take a look at another issue. The place of your old sin nature.

Do you as a Christian accept the fact without question that you have <sup>a</sup> ~~an~~ old sin nature?.....(agree..say AMEN)...

O.K. if you said AMEN it means you agree and you have one...

If you disagree with this, you are not a Christian. Did you know that?

I John chapter 1 clearly tells us that. If ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> deny that ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> have the presence of a sin nature in your life, you do not belong to the Lord.

You know, if you are really a believer I will tell you what God does. He just keeps convincing you that you do have a sin nature....(H8)

WHY? Not to overwhelm you are defeat you...NO WAY...He just wants you to trust him more. He wants you to know the sweet freedom that He alone can bring. But sometimes he has to overwhelm you about the truth of your old sin nature before you will come to understand what He wants from you. As long as you go about life thinking you can handle things, you are proud and self-centered and you think you can do what God wants you to do. LISTEN, HE WILL GIVE YOU ENOUGH TROUBLE FROM YOUR SIN NATURE TO REMAIND YOU THAT YOU MUST TRUST HIM. He does it all the time.

*NOT TO cause you to have low self-esteem*

Now, all he says here in Vs 22...."that, in reference to your former manner of life"....meaning as a non-christian.... "you lay aside".

Dear friends, be very careful in reading this text...

He is not saying..."go outside and lay aside your old sin nature." He is not saying that. In fact, it isn't even a command. He is ~~just~~ simply stating a fact. It is in the Aroist tense. It happened when you accepted Christ.

He is saying here that when you became a Christian you did lay aside the old sin nature...WOW!!!!

That is saying that the old sin nature as Romans 6:6 says was cruified to the cross of Jesus Christ. My old sin nature has been cruified with Christ.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? That simply means that I don't have to be ~~controlled~~ controlled by my old sin nature.

*you can now live by your new nature & Christ*

An unbeliever doesn't have any choice. He has to be controlled by his sin nature. I don't as a christian.

The moment I come to Christ the old sin nature is crucified with Christ. I don't have jto be controlled by sin. If you currently are controllled by sin, and sinful desires, guess who caused it? .....YOU DID!.....

"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God." Because God cannot be tempted by evil. But everyone who is tempted is lead away by his own what?..... LUST AND DESIRE..

If you are currently following sinful desires as a crhsitian, guess who made the decision to do so?.....YOU DID...

Why? Because God's Word says that the moement you come to Christ, the old sin nature is laid aside. It is literally rendered inoperative according to Romans 6. It does not have the abilty to control you unless you bring it back to life.....

Boy, that is a fantastic truth. And if some of you could get aholed of it today, there would be victory in your life as you leave this service today.

When you have that desire(and by the way we all have it)....that desire to sin against God's Word, you make the decision to fol~~low~~ that desire, OR to follow God...God is not going to make that decision for you.

By the way, old Satan never forces any one to sin either. You know, those little T-shirts that read: THE DVIL MADE ME ~~DO~~ IT...NO HE DIDN"T...YOU DID. The only think the Devil can do is to tempt you..or bait you...

But if you yield to sin, you made the decision to do so.

If you are a Christian, you do not have to sin anymore. WHY? Because the old man was crucified with Christ.

So, when you respond to God, you become a slave to God. When you respond to sin, you become a slave to sin.

Romans 6:6 says that whatever lust you obey...the lust toward sin, or the lust toward God...that is the one you will become a slave to.

The pattern of obedience leads to slavery...Keep on dsireing it..keep on acting toward sin and guess what?...One day you will wake up and jsay.."Man, I have a habit in my life that I wish I could break."

And it didn't happen over night. It was a series of decision that we made in which we literally ask the old sin nature to be fulfilled and to dominate and control our lives.

We responded to our desire rather than to what God's Word says.

An unbeliever has to go that way. A believer has a choice now, either towards God or towards sin.

(3) This leads us to the third point. The Process of renewal. Look at Vs 23. WHAT IS THE SECRET? HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS MORAL MESS? HOW DO I STOP WALKING LIKE AN UNBELIEVER?

Vs 23.. "that you be renewed" ..and this is present tense... In Vs 22 it was past tense... When I accepted Christ that was a one-time act... "That you be renewed" is present..... I must constantly be renewed in the spirit of my mind.

Renewal, folks, goes on in the mind. Romans 12:2 says "don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

It is in the mind where the battle is fought. *Between Sin and Righteousness* That is why Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10 to bring every thought into captivity to Christ.

It is in the mind that renewal goes on. It is a daily processes. 2 Cor. 4:16 says that the outward man maybe decaying, but our inner man is being renewed day by day."

It is a process that is controlled and worked in you by the Holy Spirit, according to Titus 3:5. He is changing you to act and react like Jesus. Because you have been getting your mind into the Word. And when you fill your mind with God's Word, the Holy Spirit takes that and begins to transform your actions.

So, when someone rubs you the wrong way and you feel like hitting them, the Holy Spirit of God, because you have studied that manner, controls you even though you might have felt anger.

Control..... Those who are carnal, says Galatians 5, are they who having thought it, do it. Those who are spirit do think it, but don't do it.

If we walk by means of the spirit we will not carry out the lust of the flesh which we all have.

Does the Spirit control our lives? Be renewed in the spirit of your minds

I see here a positive application of recommitting myself to God's will of knowing His Word. To let my mind fill on God's Word and his thoughts about any subject in any area, rather than what the world says. And in whatever the world suggest to me, I will check it out by the Word of God. And I will observe that in every situation of life. I don't know why I don't learn from that. But I keep listening to the world. I turn on the news and because it is (NAME NEWMAN) I think it is gospel. But I ought to know better.

Listen, people the Word of God is the only thing that can bring us moral clarity and truth. To give us moral direction. Moral understanding. To know what is right and wrong. To live victoriously.

(5) <sup>Must to remember</sup> ~~fact~~ is because of the presence of a new nature. Thus I have the possibility to walk differently. It isn't saying that I can reform myself. It is saying that something Happened to me when I became a christian that makes it possible.

*mt* In Vs 24 we read "put on the new self". Now, he is not asking you to do it now. Again it is in the aorist tense. It is organized just like Vs 22. Two things happened when you got saved. (1) the old self was crucified with Jesus so that you no longer need to be controlled by it. You have the option now of obeying God which you did not have as an unbeliever. (2) And the second thing that happened to you is that God gave you a new <sup>nature</sup> self. And this is the result of God's creation in you.

And according to Vs 24 it is created in two areas. IN RIGHTEOUS...WHAT IS RIGHT....AND IN HOLINESS, WHICH IS SEPERATION FROM EVIL *or sin*

My new nature is not programed to sin. My new nature is ~~not~~ programed to follow the ~~world~~. That is why God says that when you live like the world you are putting a mask on. (Romans 12:2) Because it is not your real nature as a christian. Your new nature as a Christian responds to Jesus. <sup>And that</sup> ~~That is~~ *happens when we* why we need to renew the ~~our~~ mind in the word of God. So that my present life will conform to <sup>God's word for my life - as my life should</sup> ~~what will be settled at the time Jesus comes again.~~

I want my life, now, to be ~~more like heavens values than it presently does.~~ *Like God Wants it to be.*



But I am in the world's system. And I must live and face it every single day of my life.

Committment...life style...walk differently...Don't walk the same as the unbeliever.....

And the choice is yours....May God have victory in your life...

Shall we close in prayer

When you partake of the elements you are making a  
Committment to live like a christian, not like the world -