



Pastor Doug Wilson · BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS  
 April 21, 2024 · Sixteenth in a series of messages

### Ephesians 4 (TNIV & NLT)

<sup>1</sup> As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to **LIVE A LIFE WORTHY** of the calling you have received.

<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it **in the Lord**, that **YOU MUST NO LONGER WALK** as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and **separated from THE LIFE OF GOD** because of the ignorance that is in them due to **the hardening of their hearts**. <sup>19</sup> *Having lost all sensitivity*, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are **full of greed**.

<sup>20</sup> *That, however, is not how you* **LEARNED Christ** — <sup>21</sup> *when you* **HEARD Christ and were TAUGHT in him** in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to **YOUR FORMER WAY OF LIFE**, to **PUT OFF YOUR OLD SELF**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires. <sup>23</sup> **INSTEAD, LET THE SPIRIT RENEW YOUR THOUGHTS & ATTITUDES**. <sup>24</sup> **PUT ON THE NEW SELF, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD** in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for **we are all members of one body**. <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Those who have been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, **that they may have something to share with those in need**.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, **but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen**. <sup>30</sup> And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption**. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling & slander, along with every form of malice.

<sup>32</sup> Be **KIND and TENDER-HEARTED** to one another, **FORGIVING** each other, **just as in Christ God forgave YOU**.

**5** <sup>1</sup> **FOLLOW GOD’S EXAMPLE**, therefore, as **dearly loved children** <sup>2</sup> and **WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE**, **just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God**.

“Walk This Way!”

— or —

### A New Walk for a New Community

“Paul is calling us to live in a way that is congruent with the alternative reality brought into being through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.”

— DARRELL W. JOHNSON, *Ephesians: The Wonder & Walk of Being Alive ‘In Christ’* (2022)

1. Because you are “in Christ,” this is who you \_\_\_\_\_. (4:32)
  - a. “\_\_\_\_\_” – “just as in Christ God forgave YOU.”
  - b. “Dearly \_\_\_\_\_ children” – “just as Christ loved us”
  - c. part of “God’s New Society” (JOHN STOTT), “The Beloved \_\_\_\_\_” (MLK) — a place of kindness, tender-heartedness, and forgiveness! See 4:25, 28, 29 – we are blessed to be part of the “one anothers”!
2. Because you are “in Christ,” this is how you \_\_\_\_\_. (5:1-2)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ to one another
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_-hearted — the opposite of **hard-hearted** (EPH. 4:18)!
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ one another [*charizomai*]. “Heaping grace”...
  - d. Followers of Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ — “just as in Christ God forgave YOU.”
  - e. Followers of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ (MATTHEW 5:44-45)
  - f. Walkers in “the way of \_\_\_\_\_”
  - g. Loving \_\_\_\_\_, with self-giving love — “just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us”
  - h. And all “as a fragrant \_\_\_\_\_ and sacrifice to God.”