

# Ephesians Series

Lesson #162

August 21, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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# The Removal of the “Old Man”

## Ephesians 4:17–21



# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**Eph. 4:17, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,**

**Eph. 4:18, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;**

**Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” ~NKJV**

**Eph. 4:20, “But you have not learned Christ in such a way,  
~RD**

**Eph. 4:21, “if indeed you have heard Him and have been  
taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:**

**Eph. 4:22, “that you put off, concerning your former  
conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the  
deceitful lusts,**

**Eph. 4:23, “and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,**

**Eph. 4:24, “and that you put on the new man which was  
created according to God, in true righteousness and  
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# Review

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**At the instant of our salvation, we are baptized “by means of the Holy Spirit;” identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.**

- This is non-experiential.**
- It is not repeated.**
- It is not lost.**

# Review

**2. This new corporate identity is identified as the Church. This is distinct from Israel, God's people in the Old Testament.**

- a. Eph. 2:10 As a corporate body we are Christ's workmanship,**
- b. Eph. 2:15 We are a new man**
- c. Eph. 2:16 We are one body, a new body, the body of Christ**
- d. Eph. 2:21 A new building**
- e. Eph. 2:21b A new temple**

**1 Cor. 10:32, “Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Gentiles or to the church of God,” ~NKJV**

**3. The important metaphor of walking. We are to live a certain way.**

**The command**

**Eph. 4:1 walk in a manner worthy**

**Eph. 4:1, “Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord, strongly urge you to conduct your life in a manner worthy of the exalted position to which you were summoned,”**

**~RD amplified**

**Eph. 4:1, “Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord, strongly urge you to conduct your life in a manner worthy of the exalted position to which you were summoned,”**

**~RD amplified**

**Eph. 4:17–18a, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, because their understanding is darkened as a result of being alienated from God ...”**



## **4. The problem**

**“This is a difficult problem, pregnant with exegetical implications. As this is an important problem, some discussion of it is necessary.”**

**~Dan Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, 608**

## **Grammar issue:**

**There are two aorist infinitives (past tense) literally, *to put off* (vs. 22), and *to put on* (vs. 24)**

- 1. It is common to translate with the idea of *you should put on*, and *you should put off*. But these are NOT imperatives.**
- 2. If he is not saying “you should do this,” then he is saying “you have done this, now on that basis ...”**

## **Three possible views:**

- 1. Challenging individuals to put off/put on [imperative]**
- 2. Each individual believer has already put on/put off, and each individual should ... [indicative—the reality of a past action]**
- 3. This is not individual but corporate. This is the new reality of those in the body of Christ. [The old man has been replaced by the new man.]**

**What do the terms “old man/new man” describe?**

**Old man = old sin nature; this isn't correct**

**What do the terms “old man/new man” describe?**

**Old man = all that we were before we were saved.**

**Correct as far as it goes, but needs refinement.**

**What do the terms “old man/new man” describe?**

**New man = the Church, the new entity composed of Jew and Gentile united together in Christ.**

**Eph. 4:20, “But y’all have not so learned Christ, ~RD**

**Eph. 4:21, “if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as truth is in Jesus:” ~RD**

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**διδάσκω *didaskō***

**2 plur aor pass indic  
to teach, to instruct  
a verb of  
communication.  
This is the main  
verb the following  
infinitives explain.**



**Eph. 4:22, “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,” ~NKJV**

**Eph. 4:22, “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,” ~NKJV [imperative—something we are to do]**

**Eph. 4:22, “y’all took off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which is growing corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,” ~RD [indicative—something that has already been done]**

**Eph. 4:20 “However, you were not disciplined that way, assuming you heard about the Messiah and were taught in him as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes by putting on the new self, created in God’s likeness in righteousness and holiness based on the truth.”**

**~C. Gordon Olson, *The Resurrection New Testament***

**Eph. 4:21, “if ye have heard him and been instructed in him according as the truth is in Jesus;**

**Eph. 4:22, “namely your having put off according to the former conversation the old man which corrupts itself according to the deceitful lusts;**

**Eph. 4:23, “and being renewed in the spirit of your mind;**

**Eph. 4:24, “and your having put on the new man, which according to God is created in truthful righteousness and holiness.” ~DARBY**

**Eph. 4:21, “assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,**

**Eph. 4:22, “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,**

**Eph. 4:23, “and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,**

**Eph. 4:24, “and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” ~ESV**

**Eph. 4:22, “You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires;**

**Eph. 4:23, “you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds;**

**Eph. 4:24, “you put on [past tense] the new self, the one created**

**Eph. 4:25, “Since you put away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another.” ~HCSB**

**“since you have already put off the lie, speak the truth” (as it is in Jesus, i.e., the Word, biblical truth, Bible doctrine)**

**Col. 3:9, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,**

**Col. 3:10, “and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,**

**Col. 3:11, “where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”**

**Gal. 3:27, “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

**Gal. 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”**