

Off with the Old on with the New

Eph. 4:17-24

In view of our many privileges listed in ch. 1-3, we should seek to be unified with believers (4:1ff.) and unlike unbelievers, 17-24.

We've got to think differently so that we can live differently. 17-19

- *Walk* = metaphor for one's lifestyle, 2:2, 4:1, 17, 5:2.
- Earlier concern = childlike gullibility (14); now = mental ability (*futility of the mind, darkened understanding, ignorance*).
- See Rom. 1:21ff. for a similar malfunctioning of the mind.
- This triad of sinful behavior to avoid is similar to 5:3. Is this triad easy to spot today? How different are we?

We've got to put off the old self and put on our new self. 20-24

- In Col. 3:9, 10, Rom. 6:6, II Cor. 5:17 we have already put off (clothing metaphor) the *old self* (lit. man) for the *new self*.
- Putting back on the old self is foolish since it corrupts (ruins) and only offers *deceitful desires* (desires unable to fulfill us).
- A key for living differently = *a renewed mind* (23) instead of *futility of the mind* (17b). See Rom. 12:1, 2. Ps. 119:9-11.
- The *new self* is the real you now and is God-like, Col. 3:10b. We need not / must not let our past control us now, Rom. 6:6ff.

