



Sunday, February 11, 2018  
Pastor Don Denyes

## **Introduction to Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

Repentance is often thought of as the initial step to becoming a Christian, and rightly so. A sinner must turn from their sin—expressing their earnest desire to cease from living the way they did apart from Christ—and turn to Christ—learning to love Him more and more and walk in obedience to His commandments. But the reality is, the Christian life is a call to continual repentance. That is why Paul writes what he does to the Ephesians in 4:25-5:2. They need to be reminded, as we do, to put away or “unlearn” our old ways of living and put on or “learn” Christ.

This teaching is by no means radical. Paul’s outline in this passage finds many parallels with the Ten Commandments laid out in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. But there is an added level of clarity with these commands: we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. Because we have the Spirit’s presence in our lives, we are able to steadily plod along and rid our lives of the old ways of living that were displeasing to God and begin to live a new way that is pleasing to Him.

### **Context**

This section further develops Paul’s argument with regard to “walking” in our new life in Christ. This argument began in 4:1 and will continue through the remainder of the letter. Having identified the difference between living apart from Christ and living in Christ, Paul now moves on to particulars that each individual must wrestle with. Following this section, he will continue to talk about old ways of living that must be put away, but he will narrow his focus at the end of chapter 5 into chapter 6 when he specifies what this new life looks like for certain relationships (wives and husbands, children and parents, slaves and masters).

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Dress for Success”

Ephesians 4.25

Sit, Walk, Stand

Put off

Put on

1. Lying

Speaking truth

2. Sinful anger

Righteous anger

3. Stealing

Honest work (& giving)

4. Destructive language

Edifying language

5. Grieving God

Pleasing God

6. Hatred

Kindness

## Discuss

- 1) Jesus said, “out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). What is abundant in the heart of a person who exhibits the characteristic of our “old selves” that we are to “put off”?
  
- 2) Pastor Don quoted a Puritan author as saying, “he that would be angry and not sin should be angry at nothing but sin.” What do you think of that statement? How well does it characterize you?
  
- 3) How have you witnessed God’s grace in your life in causing you to “put on Christ” in the ways Paul describes in this passage?
  
- 4) How would you say we are doing as a church in exhibiting these new character traits Paul describes? What about our small group?
  
- 5) Who are some people in your life who have not “learned Christ” (Eph. 4:20)? How can we pray for them specifically as a group?