



## Because I'm in Christ, I can be holy.

Paul says I must no longer walk as the Gentiles do (v. 17). This describes anyone whose heart is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 18) or turned away from God. Their minds are \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17), leading them nowhere. Their understanding is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 18). There is \_\_\_\_\_ in them (v. 18) - they don't know anything about God's character or His purpose for them. They become \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19) - they can no longer hear or sense God's words or presence. They live moment-to-moment and want to practice every kind of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19). This is how everyone lives, before they meet Jesus.

BUT that is NOT \_\_\_\_\_! (verse 20) -assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the \_\_\_\_\_ is in Jesus... (verse 21). We must CHOOSE to ACT, to live out our new identity.

**Step 1:** "put \_\_\_\_\_ which belongs to \_\_\_\_\_" (v. 22)

As you get dressed each day, putting off your clothes, what are some "old self" habits that you can "put off"? (for example, lying, complaining, selfishness). How is "putting off" connected to confessing sin? \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2:** "be \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of your minds" (v. 23)

Who does this renewing? \_\_\_\_\_. I ask the Holy Spirit to make my mind new - to \_\_\_\_\_ my way of thinking and acting (read Romans 12:2). The Spirit remakes my mind so it is no longer futile, and my understanding is no longer darkened. A new operating system is installed!

**Step 3:** "put \_\_\_\_\_, created \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" (v. 24)

WOW! As you get dressed, putting on your clothes, pray that you can "put on the new self" habits. What are these "new self" habits? Read Colossians 3:8-11 and Galatians 5:22. (Paul will also describe how the "new self" acts in the rest of Ephesians- keep listening!)

The purpose of the new self is to become what God intended for us: "created \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" (v. 24).

As the Holy Spirit renews our minds, true words and right actions will follow. We reflect His image as we cooperate with Him, by making decisions to walk with Him each day. This is where we find purpose, meaning, deep relationship and love that lasts.

**"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."**

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

