

The Pursuit of Holiness Displays our Happiness in God

Ephesians 4:17-24

January 27, 2008

A Summary of Eph. 4:17-5:21

The Pursuit of Practical Holiness:

- *Truth Telling (4:25)*
- *Controlling our Anger (4:26-27)*
- *Hard Work & Generosity (4:28)*
- *Gracious Speech (4:29-32)*
- *Sexual Purity (5:1-14)*
- *Rightful Worship (5:1-14)*
- *Being Filled with the Spirit (5:15-21)*

Two Important Points:

- Let's view 4:17-5:21 as one unit with the banner over that unit being the pursuit of practical holiness
- Let's come to understand that the pursuit of holiness displays our happiness in God.

John 14:21

“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

**As we display our love for him,
he displays himself to us!**

Ephesians 4:17

*“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that
you must no longer walk as the Gentiles
do in the futility of their minds.”*

Paul's 4 Reasons:

1. We should not walk as the Gentiles do because their minds are futile (v. 17).
2. We should not walk as the Gentiles do because they're darkened in their understanding (v. 18).
3. We should not walk as the Gentiles do because they're alienated from the life of God (v. 18).

In Summary...

- Sin causes hardness of heart,
- Hardness of heart breeds ignorance,
- Walking in ignorance alienates us from
God

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3. We should not walk as the Gentiles do because they're alienated from the life of God (v. 18).
4. We should not walk as the Gentiles do because they've become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality (v. 19).

A Key Question:

*Why then would we who are in Christ want
to follow in the way of the world?*

Three Alternatives to vv. 18-19:

1. Paul tells us to “put off” the old self (v. 22).
2. Paul tells us to be renewed in the spirit of our minds (v. 23).
3. Paul tells us to “put on” the new self (v. 24).