



NEW KINGDOM BEHAVIOUR

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10 April 2022

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:25–32

INTRODUCTION

Paul opens the Book of Ephesians highlighting the greatness of salvation. He wants us to see the exceeding greatness of **God's power in creating the church** (us).

1 Corinthians 3:9 *For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*

Then he continues to say we are the chosen ones – the holy ones. God chose us to be holy as He is holy.

Ephesians 1:4 *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

After Paul has taught about God's' greatness and power, he then calls the Ephesians (and us) to live according to the power that is within us. Remember we are created in His image. God is calling us to live according to His standards – like Kingdom kids, to be holy like Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Before salvation we were slaves to sin, but now that we are free from sin, we are now slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:18 *and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

A radical change is necessary when you are a Christian. You cannot stay the same. This change is progressive as you mature in the knowledge of God.

The old self is the person we were under the dominion of sin. The new person is the person we are in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.*

The battle is in the mind. If you don't renew your mind, you will keep falling.

Brethren, understand this: God placed us in Christ by the Holy Spirit such that the old self has died. The person that we were is gone, (Romans 6:1–11). This means that the old way of living is gone. You are now a new person in the Lord Jesus.

The new you: -

- Is not black or white, male or female
- Is righteous
- Looks like Christ and acts like Him
- Has power and authority to do the works of Jesus.

You are not saved to do nothing; you are saved to go and preach the good news.

As a new creation in Christ Jesus, you have been born again and by grace, as a child of God, you have access to everything God has.

The question is:

If believers are spiritually born again and fully equipped to do the works of Jesus, why do we not see them operating at full potential as new creatures in Christ Jesus?

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We need to be intentional and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness. That means to intentionally put into practise what God has done and created us to be. A hunger for righteousness is already in us. We have to work out what we believe and turn it into practical living.

Paul highlights 5 behaviour characteristics of people walking in the newness of Christ: -

1. Lying

Ephesians 4:25 *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another.*

Lying is terrible, especially in the body of Christ. We are members of the body of Christ. If one hurts, we all hurt. The devil is the "father of lies"; lying is concurring with the devil.

2. Anger

Ephesians 4:26 -27 *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil.*

God allows us to be angry, but He says in our anger we must not sin. We need to resolve our issues and calm down before the sun goes down, otherwise the accuser of the brethren will take over and mess you up.

3. Stealing

Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

If you stole anything – **take it back immediately. Don't open the door to the enemy.** Remember he came to steal, kill and destroy, (John 10:10). Remember Ananias & Sapphira who held back part of the proceeds and lied about it (Acts 5:1-11). The wages of sin is death. You may not die immediately, but you die slowly.

4. Talking

Ephesians 4:29 - 30 *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Paul says a Christian talk should be: -

- Good and suitable for the occasion
- Helpful and minister grace to those who listen to us
- It should not grieve the Holy Spirit.

We are grieving the Holy Spirit when we speak corrupt words, we will not have the peace of God that surpasses all understand, and we will not have the joy of the Lord which is our strength.

Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

When you use ugly words, you can ask forgiveness, but people don't forget them. Choose to give life. Think before you speak and let your words be few. (James 1:19-20, 3:10-12; Psalm 19:14)

5. Kindness

Ephesians 4:31 -32 *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Kindness is the fruit of the Spirit. Paul reminds us of God's kindness towards us. Therefore, we are to be kind to one another. We need grace every day.

CONCLUSION

Spending time with the Lord praying in tongues, reading the Word and meditating on it, and listening to good music and sermons will help us stay pure. Refrain from watching and reading worldly movies and books - they will corrupt your mind.

Discussion questions:

1. If believers are spiritually born again and fully equipped to do the works of Jesus, why do we not see them operating at full potential as new creatures in Christ Jesus?
2. On a piece of paper make two columns, one for the "old man" and the other for the "new man" and list everything you can think of in both. See how your behaviour has changed as a result of your salvation.
3. What can you do daily to ensure you walk in the purity God wants us to?