

## Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

## Sermon: Putting Off &amp; Putting On

**Passage: Ephesians 4:17-32**

## Illustration:

Need: Because we are in Christ, we are called to live lives according to and consistent with the life of God that is ours by Christ's work and God's grace.

**I. If you are in Christ, don't continue to live like an unbeliever (4:17-19)**

- The unbeliever's mind is futile - useless, purposeless, empty, warped.
- The unbeliever's understanding is darkened, blind to the things of God.
- The unbeliever is alienated from the life of God because they are ignorant of Him.
- The unbeliever's heart is hardened towards God, dead to conscience or feeling (calloused).
- The unbeliever is given completely over to fulfilling his or her own desires without self-restraint.
- **Eph. 2:1-3**

**II. If you are in Christ, remember what that means. (4:20-24)**

- You have "put off" your old self. The one continually being corrupted through its own self-deception.
- Your mind is being renewed. The Holy Spirit transforms our minds, producing the character and actions of Jesus.
- You have "put on" your new self. The new life is God's re-creation of His image in us because of Christ.
- Salvation is not adding Jesus to your life. Salvation is when the spiritually dead are made alive by God's transforming grace, made available by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and received by faith alone.

**III. If you are in Christ, take these OFF and put these ON. (4:25-32)**

- (25) Take off Dishonesty (deception, diplomatic hedging, exaggerating the facts, half-truths, plagiarism, flattery, hypocrisy, habitual promise keeping), and Put on Truthfulness.
- (26-27) Put on righteous anger, but Take off angry sin. Anger makes you vulnerable to multiplied sin.
- (28) Take off dishonest self-seeking, and Put on honest work. Let your focus be on the needs of others.
- (29) Take off rotten speech, Put on words that build. You are to be a source of grace/encouragement.
- (30-31) Take off what causes the Holy Spirit to be grieved/heart-broken: (Swindoll)
  - bitterness - an attitude that harbors resentment and rejects reconciliation.
  - wrath - a deep seated rage that fails to subside.
  - anger - an uncontrollable tempter with explosive outbursts.
  - clamor - loud outcries that disrupt peace and cause confusion.
  - slander - destroying the reputation of another through gossip.
  - malice - harming others through intentional acts of wickedness.
- (32) Put on what looks like Jesus: (Swindoll)
  - kindness - acting graciously and mercifully towards others, just as God has with us.
  - tender-heartedness - offering care and comfort to those in need, just as the Holy Spirit comes alongside us as our Helper.
  - forgiveness - extending reconciliation to those who have offended or harmed us, just as Christ has forgiven us.