

THE NEW YOU

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

(continued...)

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

(continued...)

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

(continued...)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

(continued...)

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

“It’s reasonable to expect him to dream up something for us to really care about. He instead settles on soothing defeatism, a litany of conquered crises whose lessons amount to, ‘That’s just the way it is.’ Given the album’s thematic largesse it’s almost charming. Almost. But you wonder what kind of progressive future he envisions: that which will lift society or merely flatter his own intellect.”

Pitchfork Review of *Pure Comedy*

“When the Hubble space telescope pointed to a black spot in the sky about the size of an eraser head for a week it found 30,000 galaxies over 13 billion years old with many trillions of stars and many, many more trillions of inferred planets. [So] how significant are you? ...You are not a unique snowflake, you are not special, you are just another piece of decaying matter on the compost pile of this world. Nothing of who you are and what you will do in the short time you are here will matter.

(continued...)

Everything short of that realization is vanity. So celebrate life in every moment, admire its wonders, [and] love without reservation.”

Quote from a NY Times Article Comment Thread, cited in Timothy Keller's *Making Sense of God*

“Man descended from apes, therefore we must love one another.”

Vladimir Solovyov

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

Ephesians 4:20-21

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, (1) to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; (2) to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and (3) to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

“From the moment we claim the truth of being the Beloved, we are faced with the call to become who we are.”

Henri Nouwen, *Life of the Beloved*

v. 25

Take off: Lying

Put on: Speaking Truthfully

v. 26-27

Take off: Anger

Put on: Reconciliation

v. 28

Take off: Stealing

Put on: Useful work and generosity

v. 29-30

Take off: Rotten speech

Put on: Edifying speech

v. 31-32

Take off: Harboring destructive behavior

Put on: Compassion that leads to forgiveness