

Applying the Mind of the New Humanity (Ephesians 4:17–32)  
 GCC, Sunday School, 10/31/21, 9am

**Introduction**

*Big idea: See the contrast, make the pivot, exude the gospel*

- A. **Solemn Oath** (4:17)
- B. Two Pivots
  - A. From Indicative to Imperative (from 1:1–4:16 to 4:17–end of book)
  - B. From the Old Self to the New Man Self
  - C. What is Paul assuming when he says “put off the old self?”

I. The Contrast between the Old and New Self

<b>The Old Self</b>	<b>The New Self</b>
1.) Walks according to the futility of his/her mind (v. 17)	1.) Speaks the truth with his neighbor because they are fellow members (v. 25)
2.) Is darkened in his/her understanding (v. 18a)	2.) Handles anger carefully and does not give an opportunity to the devil (v. 26–27)
3.) Is alienated from the Life of God (v. 18b)	3.) Gives in place of stealing (v. 28)
4.) Is characterized by a willful ignorance (18c–d)	4.) Builds up with words of grace (v. 29)
5.) Is calloused/despondent (19a)	5.) Does not grieve the Holy Spirit (v. 30)
6.) Has given him/herself up to sensuality (19b)	6.) Dispenses with bitterness, anger, malice, slander (v. 31)
7.) Is greedy to practice every kind of impurity (19c)	7.) Is kind, tenderhearted, and forgives as God has forgiven him/her (v. 32)

- A. The mind is the command center of the old and new self
- B. The old self is myopic while the new self is “others-focused” (v. 17; cf. 25–32)
- C. The old self is characterized by a willful ignorance (v. 18c–d) while the new self is characterized by an intentional desire to build up and encourage (vv. 25, 28, 29, 31, 32)
- D. The old self is constantly calloused (v. 19) while the new self is strategically sensitive (vv. 26–27, 30–32)
- E. The mind of the old self is characterized by the gospel of “self” while the new self is characterized by the gospel of “Christ” (v. 32)

II. Christ: the Anchor of the Pivot (4:20–24)

The Old Self	The Christological Pivot	The New Self
1.) Walks according to the futility of his/her <b>mind</b> (v. 17)	1.) Go back to how you <i>learned</i> Christ (v. 20) in order to renew your mind (v. 23)	1.) Speaks the truth with his neighbor because they are fellow members (v. 25)
2.) Is darkened in his/her <b>understanding</b> (v. 18a)		2.) Handles anger carefully and does not give an opportunity to the devil (v. 26–27)
3.) Is alienated from the Life of God (v. 18b)	2.) Put <b>off</b> the old self (v. 22)	3.) Gives in place of stealing (v. 28)
4.) Is characterized by a willful <b>ignorance</b> (18c–d)		4.) Builds up with words of grace (v. 29)
5.) Is calloused/despondent (19a)	3.) Put <b>on</b> the new self (v. 24)	5.) Does not grieve the Holy Spirit (v. 30)
6.) Has given him/herself up to sensuality (19b)		6.) Dispenses with bitterness, anger, malice, slander (v. 31)
7.) Is greedy to practice every kind of impurity (19c)		7.) Is kind, tenderhearted, and forgives as God has forgiven him/her (v. 32)

- A. To Learn Christ is to Come to Christ
1. We come to Christ because living our life apart from him was futile.
  2. We come to Christ because in him we will not be judged by the Father but will find acceptance.
  3. We come to Christ because he is the teacher and we are the learners
  4. We come to Christ to learn how to be gentle and lowly in heart”
  5. We come to Christ to learn how to crucify the old self and live in the power of the new self

III. Applying the Pivot to the New Self (4:20–24)

- A. Diagnosing Selfishness
- B. Diagnosing Ignorance
- C. Diagnosing Anger, Bitterness, and Slander
- D. Is my behavior/attitude exude the gospel of “self” or of “Christ?” (4:32)