

The New Way to Walk

Ephesians 4:17-24

Because believers have a new identity in Christ, they have a new way to walk.

- I. The _____ way of walking (17-19)
 - A. _____ thinking (17-18)
 - 1. _____ - *the priority and idolatry of things*
 - 2. _____ - *if it works, it's right*
 - 3. _____ - *truth is not absolute*
 - 4. _____ - *the pursuit of pleasure is our right*
 - 5. _____ - *man does not need God*
 - 6. _____ - *man is the center of the universe*
 - B. _____ feeling (18-19)
- II. The _____ way of walking (20-24)
 - A. _____ centered (20-21)
 - B. _____ slaying (22)
 - C. _____ renewed (23-24)

The key to interpreting these statements is understanding the proper relationship of what has already happened in Christ with what Christ is yet calling his people to do. A real change has already taken place by virtue of one's incorporation into Christ and participation in his death, resurrection, and ascension. Yet until Christ returns, these will not be fully realized characteristics in the daily experience of believers. Thus, there is no contradiction when Paul says to the Colossians that "you have taken off your old self" (Col 3:9) and then tells the Ephesians that they still need to take off the old self (Eph 4:22). Both are true. The former statement affirms the new identity of believers in terms of their participation in the death of Christ. Because of their incorporation into Christ, their old self was crucified with Christ (Rom 6:6). Yet now believers need to align their day-to-day lives with the reality of who they are in Christ.

- Clinton E. Arnold