

4. What practical steps can you take to think and live like a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ?

How can you make your home a place where your children can more easily grow in their walks with Jesus Christ?



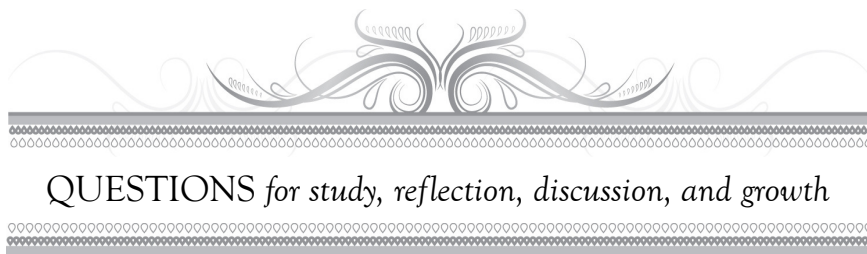
## Lesson 16: The Pursuit of Holiness

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 4:17-24 | April 18-19, 2009

When we become followers of Jesus Christ, not only are we called to live in unity with other believers (Ephesians 4:1-16), we are also called to live in purity or holiness (Ephesians 4:17-32ff). Simply put, holiness is living like Jesus Christ—a life that is fully dedicated to God. For us, this means two things: one, forsaking our pre-Christian way of thinking and living, and two, pursuing our new life in Christ by the renewing of our minds (Ephesians 4:17 and 23).

- I. Leaving the Pagan Past (Ephesians 4:17-19).
  - A. The Pagan Way of Thinking (Ephesians 4:17-18a).
    1. Futility of mind.  
Life with no \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ . A mind not set on Christ is filled with thoughts that lead nowhere.
    2. Darkened understanding  
Life with no \_\_\_\_\_. A mind not set on Christ cannot effectively distinguish between right and wrong.
  - B. The Pagan Way of Living (Ephesians 4:18b-19).
    1. Excluded from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18b).  
Unbelievers are \_\_\_\_\_ from the life that comes from God.

- I. A. 1. Meaning, purpose, goal. I. A. 2. Discernment.  
I. B. 1. Separated. I. B. 1. b. Insensitive.  
II. A. Learn, truth, hear, taught.  
II. D. 1. Continuing. II. D. 2. Great refusals, godly wisdom.



QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

- a. Because of willful ignorance (Romans 1:20-21, 1 Peter 1:14).
- b. Because of hardness of heart. Unbelievers are \_\_\_\_\_ to spiritual realities.

2. Calloused, careless, sensual, indulgent (Ephesians 4:19).  
 Sadly, the portrait of a pagan (or unbeliever) is that of one who does not care about whom he hurts, how he lives, or where his desires take him.

- II. Pursuing the Life of Holiness (Ephesians 4:20-24).
  - A. By Learning the Truth in Jesus (Ephesians 4:20-21).  
 To “learn Jesus” is to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the truth, and be \_\_\_\_\_ the truth as it is in Him.
  - B. By Putting Off the Old Self (Ephesians 4:22).  
 Leaving behind the deceitful lusts.
  - C. By Putting On the New Self (Ephesians 4:24).  
 The image of God restored.
  - D. Renewing the Mind (Ephesians 4:23).
    - 1. The renewal of our minds is a \_\_\_\_\_ process (Romans 12:2).
    - 2. The renewing of our minds involves “\_\_\_\_\_,” and \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 1, Proverbs 2).

- III. How Then Shall We Live?
  - A. Run from the Old Life.
  - B. Renew Your Mind.
  - C. Resolve to Cooperate with the Work of God’s Holy Spirit.

Notes:

- 1. Read Ephesians 4:17-24, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 6, 1 Peter 1:14-16, and Colossians 3:1-10.
- 2. In looking at the above passages, how would you describe the goal of the Christian life?

How is this goal obtained?

- 3. What types of things hinder you from thinking about your life in Christ and spiritual realities?

What are some of the greatest distractions and challenges our culture presents insofar as a Christian mindset is concerned?