

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him 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. Ephesians 4:20-24 (NIV)

Put Off, Renew, Put On

Do you want to be like me? Do you want to live the new life that I have given you to live? Do you want to live a righteous and holy life that is pleasing to me? Yes, I do want to be like you. I want to live the life that you have given me to live. I want to live a righteous and holy life that is pleasing to you. How can all that be possible? Is there something that I must do? **That is a very good question. Yes, there is something that you must do.**

When I called you to come to me, you left your old life to follow me. You turned away from your sins and asked me to forgive and cleanse you of all your unrighteousness. You said that you would follow me as your Savior and Lord. Is all of this true? Yes, that is all true. **I have forgiven you of all your sins and cleansed you of all your unrighteous. I have given you a new life to live in me now and forever. I have been leading you through life as your Lord and Savior. You are my child. One day you will come to live forever in heaven with me.** Then everything is all good. **You think so?** Well, maybe not. I'm not positive that I'm really living the life you have given me to live. You mentioned that there is something I must do if I want to live a life that is pleasing to you. **Yes, I did. Would you like me go over what you must do if you want to live a righteous and holy life that is pleasing to me?** Yes, I would.

Actually there are three things you must do if you want to live the life I have given you to live. You must first put off your old life. Your old life is like old dirty, stinky clothes. Once you have completely taken them off, don't ever put them back on again. Make sure that you don't let any remnants of your old life remain with you. Take a thorough inventory and get rid of whatever no longer suits you as one of my followers. Don't ever go back and to try those smelly clothes on again. Do you understand all of this? Yes, I do. **You will have temptations and battles against your old life of sin. As awful as it sounds, you will be tempted to put back on the dirty, stinky clothes of your old life. I will strengthen you in your battle against this temptation and sin. How will you do that? You will be part of what I will do in you. Here is what you must do next. You must let me change your heart and renew your mind with my word. How can I do that? You must feast on my word. You must allow my word to dwell in you richly. You must meditate on my word day and night. You must hide my word in your heart. As you do this I will be changing your heart and renewing your mind. As my word dwells in you richly you will be able to stand against temptation and sin. You will be able to leave the clothes of your old life behind. Do you believe what I am saying to you?** Yes, I believe you. **Why is that?** I know that you already have been changing my heart and renewing my mind. **Yes, that's true. What else have I been doing in you? What else have I been teaching you?** You have been teaching me how to put on the new life that you have given me to live. **Yes, I have. That is what you will do next and keep on doing as I lead you through life.**

Lord, thank you for making it possible for me to come to know you. You have taught me how to remove the stinky clothes of my old life. You are using your word to change my heart and renew my mind. You are helping me to put on the new life I have in you. Amen

Knowing God*You Were Taught*

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him 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.

NIV

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*Learned*

But that isn't what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

NLT

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*You Were Taught*

That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

NRSV

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*Been Taught*

But you did not so learn Christ! Assuming that you have really heard Him and been taught by Him, as [all] Truth is in Jesus [embodied and personified in Him], Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

AMP

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*Been Taught*

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

NASB

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*Were Taught*

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

ESV

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*Have Been Taught*

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

NKJV

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*Instructed*

But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

MSG

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*Learned*

But that isn't the way Christ taught you! If you have really heard his voice and learned from him the truths concerning himself, then throw off your old evil nature—the old you that was a partner in your evil ways—rotten through and through, full of lust and sham. Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better. Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.

TLB

Ephesians 4:20-24

Knowing God*You Were Taught*

But what you learned in Christ was not like this. I know that you heard about him, and you are in him, so you were taught the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught to leave your old self—to stop living the evil way you lived before. That old self becomes worse, because people are fooled by the evil things they want to do. But you were taught to be made new in your hearts, to become a new person. That new person is made to be like God—made to be truly good and holy.

NCV

Ephesians 4:20-24

You Were Taught

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Knowing God – Ephesians 4:20-24

In Context: Read Ephesians 4

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

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Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

You, however, | did not | come to know | Christ | that way. | Surely | you heard | of him | 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. Ephesians 4:20-24

Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, thank you for making it possible for me to come to know you. You have taught me how to remove the stinky clothes of my old life. You are using your word to change my heart and renew my mind. You are helping me to put on the new life I have in you. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

How have you put off your old life by ceasing to live in the evil ways you once lived?

How have you taken a close inventory and eliminated evil influences and practices from your old life?

When have you struggled against being drawn back into living in the evil ways in which you once lived?

How are you allowing yourself to be taught by Jesus Christ so that you can know and live out the truth?

How has God used His word to renew and strengthen your mind so you will not be drawn back into living your old life?

How has God’s word helped you to put on and live out the new life you have been given in Jesus Christ?

What have you put on as part of your new life in Christ so that you can become the new person God created you to be?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Allow God’s word to change your heart and renew your mind so that you can put on and live out your new life in Christ.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that God’s word will change your heart and renew your mind so that you can live out your new life in Christ.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how God’s word has been helping you to live out your new life in Christ.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow God's word to change your heart and renew your mind so you can live out your new life in Christ.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will allow your word to change my heart and renew my mind so I can live out my new life in you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to change my heart and renew my mind today so I can live out my new life in you?
