

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)

Your Former Way

What's that over there? You know. **Yes, I do. But I would like to hear you tell me what's over there.** Those are the stinky and dirty clothes of my old life. **They no longer suit you do they?** No, they do not. **Why is that?** You have given me a completely new life to live. **So, you have taken off all those old clothes and thrown them away, is that right?** Yes, that's right. **You have no desire to put them back on and wear them again, is that right?** That's something that I would like to talk to you about. **Yes, I'm sure that you do. What's on your mind?** I know that this is hard to believe. **Not really.** But, I'm having a hard time. **How so?** At times, I want to put some of those old stinky and dirty clothes back on. **Yes, I've noticed that. When are you having your greatest difficulty?** I'm not sure what you mean? **Are there any situations or circumstances that most tempt you to put those old stinky and dirty clothes back on?** I'm still not sure how to answer that question. **Have you made a clean break from your old manner of living? Are you allowing anything to feed the sinful desires, patterns and practices of your old life?** I guess so. **What you feed will grow. What you starve will die. If you really want to put on the new life I have for you then you will need to make a clean break with your old life.** Now, I understand.

Let's talk some more about a question I just asked you. What's that? **I asked what's on your mind.** Yes, you did. **What's on your mind is very important.** How so? **The world will continually bombard you with its patterns, practices, and values. You don't want worldly thoughts on your mind. You will never be able to fully live the new life I have for you unless you allow my word to be on your mind. It is my word that will change your heart and transform your mind. When my word is in your heart and on your mind you will have no desire to put on those dirty and stinky clothes from your old life. I get it. Well, you understand what I am saying. You won't really "get it" until you make meeting with me in my word an absolute priority in your life. Then you will have but one desire. What's that? When you have put off the clothes of your old life and are allowing me to change your heart and renew your mind with my word, you will have a joy and passion to fully put on and live out the new life that I have given to you. Then you will want nothing else. Then the clothes of your old life will be really repulsive to you. Then you will only want to see and put on the new clothes that I have given you to wear as you live your life with and for me. That is what I want with all my heart! Yes, I can see that and so you will.**

Lord, thank you for the new life I have been given. I have left my old life and its practices behind me. Your word is changing my heart and transforming my mind. I'm excited to put on and live out the new life I have in you. Amen

Life *Your Former Way*

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

Life *Your Former Way*

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

Life *Your Former Way*

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

Life *Your Former Nature*

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

Life *Your Former Manner*

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

Life *Your Former Manner*

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

Life *Your Former Conduct*

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

Life *Old Way*

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

Life *The Old You*

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

Life *Your Old Self*

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

Your Former Way

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Life – 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 (NIV)

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

Lord, thank you for the new life I have been given. I have left my old life and its practices behind me. Your word is changing my heart and transforming my mind. I’m excited to put on and live out 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 separated yourself from the old ways in which you once lived?

What patterns and practices from your old life have you put off and thrown away?

How are you making sure that there is nothing that is feeding the old ways in which you once lived?

How are you allowing God’s word to change your heart and transform your mind on a daily basis?

What is your daily pattern and practice of meeting with God in His word so He can transform your life?

How has God’s word been giving you power and strength to put on and live out the new life you have in Christ?

What does the new life that you have been given in Christ look like on you as you put it on and live it out?

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

Put off your old life and allow God’s word to transform your mind as you put on the new life He has given you to live.

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

Have faith that you will be able to put on and live out your new life in Christ as you allow Him to transform your life.

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 helped you to put on 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 put off your old life and be transformed and renewed in your mind as you put on your new life in Christ.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, help me to put off my old life and be transformed and renewed in my mind as I put on 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, what do you want me to put on as part of my new life in you?
