

2026: Looking Behind and Looking Forward

Ephesians 4:17-24

December 28th, 2025

SIT

WALK

STAND

EPHESIANS 4:17

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. *In other words, stop living like godless people, unbelievers. They don't know any better.* (ESV, CEV, pofo)

EPHESIANS 4:18

¹⁸ *Their minds are in the dark (remember, they don't know any better), and they are stubborn and ignorant and have missed out on the life that comes from God. They no longer have any feelings about what is right. In other words, they are alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. (ESV, CEV, pofo)*

EPHESIANS 4:19

¹⁹ They have become callous (remember hard hearted) and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity, *they do all kinds of indecent things.*
(ESV, CEV, pofo)

EPHESIANS 4:20-21

²⁰ *But this isn't what you were taught about Jesus Christ. Nor* is it the way you learned Christ! ²¹ He is the truth, and you heard about Him and learned about Him. (ESV, CEV)

EPHESIANS 4:22

²² *You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. In other words, **put off** your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, about Him and learned about Him. (ESV, CEV, pofo)*

STOP (put off)

Stop Living the Old Sinful Way!

Sin is serious and has consequences ...

It breaks our fellowship with God.

“⁵ This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶ So, we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.” (1 John 1:5-6)

Stop Living the Old Sinful Way!

Sin is serious and has consequences ...

It reflects on God.

“No wonder the Scriptures say, “The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.” (Romans 2:24)

Stop Living the Old Sinful Way!
Sin is serious and has consequences ...

It is contrary to God's purpose for our lives.

“For God knew his people in advance, and He chose them to become like his Son ...
Therefore, be imitators of God ...”

(Romans 8:29 and Ephesians 5:1)

START (put on)

EPHESIANS 4:23

²³ *Let the Spirit change your way of thinking (renew your mind and take every thought captive) and be renewed in the spirit of your minds. (ESV, CEV, pofo)*

EPHESIANS 4:24

²⁴ *and let the Spirit make you into a new person, as you **put on** the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. In other words, you were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy.*
(ESV, CEV, pofo)

Start Living the Jesus Way!

Holiness is mandatory and leads to life ...

It leads to fellowship with God and each other.

“But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

Start Living the Jesus Way!

Holiness is mandatory and leads to life ...

It reflects on God.

“Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.” (1 Peter 2:12)

Start Living the Jesus Way!

Holiness is mandatory and leads to life ...

It fulfills God's purpose for our lives.

"For God knew his people in advance, and He chose them to become like his Son ...

Therefore, be imitators of God ..."

(Romans 8:29 and Ephesians 5:1)

Application

One thing I want to stop (put off) this year:

On thing I want to start (put on) this year: