

**Live Worthy as Children of Light**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. God gives everyone a purpose that can only unravel if they accept salvation.
- B. The gifts can only be useful if they become children of light.
- C. Becoming a Christian involves confessing sin and believing in Jesus Christ.
- D. After salvation, faith involves living worthy of a higher calling.
- E. The pursuit of Christianity is a journey that entails letting go of sins and growing into holiness.

### **II. Context: Christians must be children of light once saved.**

- A. Paul wrote the book of Ephesians to the people of Ephesus.
- B. They should be blameless and holy with God's righteousness.
- C. Believers must tell the truth in love.
- D. Christians must build a peaceful community.

### **III. Content: Paul encourages Christians to stop sinning and live righteously.**

- Paul wrote Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome between AD 60 and 62.
- This letter was written to all Christ-followers, including the Ephesian church.
- Paul urges Christians to live up to their calling (Eph 4:17).
- He begins by urging cohesion and harmony.
- Just as they have one hope, they have one body and one Spirit. Paul says there's one baptism, one faith, and one Lord (Eph 4:17-24, NLT).
- Paul emphasizes Christian love and unity in Ephesians.

### **IV. Application**

- i. Paul provides practical ways of living as children of light.
- ii. Christians should abandon their sinful nature.
- iii. The believers should pursue a new mindset via the renewal of the Spirit.

## Introduction

Every individual has a purpose in the eyes of God. However, their usefulness can only be unleashed if they choose to become a Christian. Becoming a Christian is tied to the cross whereby an individual confesses their sin and believes in Jesus Christ to get saved (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Romans 10:9). Once a person is saved, the hard work of proving themselves worthy of their higher calling begins on the long road of faith. Paul encourages believers to turn away from sin and embrace a life of holiness (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:17). He argues that those who believe in Christ have new life and should give up their old habits. Paul continues by saying Christians should treat one another with kindness and forgiveness just as God has done the same for them. He ends by urging Christians to live in harmony while understanding that they can only be saved through Christ.

Once saved, Christians must live up to the calling as children of light. They should be blameless and holy in their relationship with the Lord's righteousness (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:24). All lies must be put away, and believers must tell the honest affection. Christians need to grow in both fellowship and biblical understanding. They ought to use their gifts for the improvement of the church. Those who have recently been converted must learn what it means to be a child of light and then demonstrate that they are worthy of our calling by their actions. In light of the atoning sacrifice made by Christ, After salvation, the long walk of faith entails living worthy of the higher calling begins. The apostle has been declared to be children of light. In Christ, they have received new life, and sins are forgiven. They are expected to live differently from those still in the dark as children of light righteousness (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:21). This paper discusses Paul's admonition as documented in Ephesians 4:17–24 to the church that was located in Ephesus.

To be an example of the children of light, a follower of Christ must undergo a profound change in their way of life due to their faith in Christ.

### **Context**

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome between AD 60 and AD 62 while awaiting trial by Caesar (Witherington III, 2017). This letter was written to all of the Christ-followers in that region, including the Ephesian church. Paul urges the believers to live lives worthy of their calling (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:17). He begins by reminding them of their calling to cohesion and harmony. Just as there is only one chance left for them, and they must seize it if they are to have any chance of survival in body and one Spirit. Paul continues by stating that there is just one baptism, one faith, and one Lord (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:17-24). The oneness to which they have been called is not only external but also inward. They must be on the same page, in agreement, and united in their adoration. Paul continues to underline the value of Christian love and unity in his letter to the Ephesians.

Paul concludes chapter 4 by reminding the Ephesians to discard their old selves and put on their new selves, which are being renewed in knowledge following their Creator (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:22). As people are instructed in the truth, this perception is being refreshed. And righteousness and holiness characterize this new self which conforms to God's plan for their life. Paul exhorts the Ephesian believers to live lives worthy of their calling within the framework of these verses. He just told them to stop behaving like Gentiles and live by the Spirit of their minds instead. Paul says that the Christian life is a regeneration process in these passages, starting with getting rid of the sinful, disobedient old self is the first step (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:17-24). Then comes the putting on of the new self, which is marked by holiness and

righteousness. The knowledge of this new self is being refreshed in line with the design of its creator. Therefore, this process of restoration is important.

He started by explaining how Christians must change from their previous lifestyle. Some people are evil and can cost the fellowship of Christ, deterring the spread of the message of peace to all humanity. Paul then urged the Ephesians to live lives worthy of their calling, unite in love, and advance their understanding of God. Paul continued his discussion of Christian unity highlighting the significance of living in truth and love (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:17-24). He warned the Ephesians not to be misled by charlatans who would sow discord among them instead of love and harmony (Eph 4:18). Christians are urged to grow in their knowledge of the truth and to share that knowledge with one another in a spirit of love. (love (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:20-21). Paul advises the Ephesian Christians to ensure that they hold onto unity and do not allow anything to separate their community.

### **Content**

In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul encourages Christians to live lives worthy of their calling because God has called them to be his holy people. He warns them against continuing to live in ignorance and darkness as they once did love (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:17). They are to live in the light of Christ, who is their actual life and who has set them free from sin, rather than the darkness of the world. Paul continues by advising them to follow in the footsteps of Christ and practice loving others as he did. They must also exhibit modesty and gentleness while enduring one another in love. Paul urges them to uphold the spiritual harmony in the peaceable ties. He cautions them against rebellion and erroneous doctrine and prompts them to develop spiritual maturity and love (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:18). Paul ends his letter by asking the Ephesians to clothe themselves with the new nature of Christ.

The new nature of Christ incorporates letting go of bad habits and embracing new characters. According to Colossians 3:12-17, Paul tells Christians to put on various virtues, including love, patience, and thankfulness. He also urges them to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts. Paul instructs that such a nature is possible through the Spirit, who renews individual's attitudes and minds helping them to live as children of the light (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:23). He instructs them to put on love, which unites everything in perfect harmony. Paul continues by instructing Christians to forgive others as Christ has forgiven them.

Ephesians 4:17–24 in the Bible speaks about how to live as honorable Christians. It speaks against living in the futility of the Gentiles' minds. Because of the ignorance they possess and the hardness of their hearts, sinners are dim in understanding and cut off from God's life (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:19). They are no longer sensitive and have given in to licentiousness out of a desire to engage in every form of impurity. However, that is not how Christians should live. They are meant to be unique and live as light children, not dark children. And what does it entail to live as light-bearers? It implies that believers must always be willing to act and behave in a way that outsiders will see as they reflect positively on God in every aspect of their lives. In the Bible, "light" symbolizes God or God's truth, whereas "darkness" symbolizes evil or the devil and his deeds. Christians are children of light and, therefore, must live to overcome the works of darkness at all costs.

### **Application**

The apostle Paul encourages Christians to act in a manner befitting their calling in his epistle to the Ephesians. He urges them to do so with all humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love and being ready to uphold the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Getz, 2011). It gives an example of how Ephesians 4:17–24 could be put into practice in the life of a believer. For believers to walk in a manner commensurate with their

calling, they must first understand what that calling is. They have been commissioned to remain blameless and holy before God (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:24). Following the directive requires individuals to live holy and righteous lives before God, apart from the rest of the world and the harmful practices it promotes. The power of the Holy Spirit can make it possible, although it is not always straightforward (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:23). The lives of believers must be an example to others if they are to live lives that please God. It does not imply that they should be a doormat, but rather that they should constantly be nice and patient with one another in love (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:2). Believers are called to sustain the spiritual unity in the peaceable ties that dictate holiness.

Only when believers walk in harmony and unity with one another can they effectively fulfill the Great Commission. Ephesians 4:17–24 offers some suggestions for how believers can live into practice in their daily lives. The first step for believers is to abandon their old way of life (*New Living Translation (NLT)*, 1996, Eph 4:17). This includes behaviors like lust, lying, and impurity. These things can only cause conflict and division inside the church, the body of Christ. Instead, followers of Christ are to put on the new self, which is distinguished by holiness and righteousness. Second, Christians must actively work to get along with one another. Being tolerant, compassionate, and the patient is necessary. It also implies accommodating people of the world even though they fail to follow the light. Third, Christians must take care not to trip each other up by allowing the Spirit to guide them into a new life. It involves refraining from the old sinful nature to avoid falling back into the old habits. Living as children of the light entails allowing the renewal of the mind and one's attitudes to ensure that Christians live in holiness and righteousness.

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