

Ephesians Bible Study Lesson Nine

Directions

You will need a study group for this Bible Study on Ephesians. Pick a few people with whom you can get together and go over the lessons. You may need to compare notes with one another to find the answers.

The answers to all the questions will either be in Notes On The Ephesians 2019 Edition by Dr. Thomas Constable (<https://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/>)

You will need a journal or notebook or means of writing down what you are learning and how it is impacting your life as a result.

Ephesians 4:17-32

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. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians Bible Study (Ephesians 4:17-32)

1. To whom does Paul refer when he is speaking of the “Gentiles” in verse seventeen?

2. What are the characteristics of their lifestyle?

3. The phrase “hardness of heart” is a unique figure of speech in the New Testament. It means “stubborn unwillingness to learn or a closed mind.”¹ Why is this characteristic particularly troubling in light of the others mentioned?

4. What is the result of this mindset in verse 19?

5. Because we have heard the gospel and been taught the Word of God, what are we personally responsible for taking off and putting on in verses 22-24?

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 332.

6. Because we are no longer deceived by our own erroneous version of the truth, how are we to interact with others in verse 25-29?

7. According to Dr. Constables notes, page 99-103, what five exhortations does Paul give Christians in regards to our conduct?

8. At the end of this list are six vices Christians are to get rid of in verse 31. What are they and how are they defined?

9. In verse 32 how are we to behave toward one another? What is our motivation?

10. What in this list is personally challenging you. Knowing that verse 23 states that God is the one doing the renewal process, is there any specific area in your life in which you have been resisting His work in you? Take some time to think it through, pray and make plans to cooperate with the Lord's work on and in you.
