

The Old Man And The New Man

(Part 1)

Ephesians 4:17-32

1

Ancient Greece

"In Greece there has never been any shame in relationships before marriage or outside marriage. Demosthenes writes as if it was the merest commonplace, as indeed it was: 'We keep mistresses for pleasure, concubines for the day-to-day needs of the body, but we have wives in order to produce children legitimately and to have a trustworthy guardian of our homes.'" (Barclay, *Flesh & Spirit*, page 24)

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Roman Empire

Morality during 1st half of the 2nd century

"... an age when shame seems to have vanished from the earth."

(J. J. Chapman, cited in *Flesh & Spirit*, Barclay, page 24)

3

Roman Empire

Adultery

"Roman women were married to be divorced & were divorced to be married. Some of them distinguished the years, not by the names of the consuls, but by the names of their husbands." (Seneca, *Ibid.*)

4

Roman Empire

Homosexuality

- Julius Caesar was notoriously the lover of king Nicomedes of Bithynia
- Nero "married" a youth called Sporus & had a marriage procession through the streets of Rome (Barclay, page 27)

5

Roman Empire

"There was no strong body of opinion against immorality. To the Graeco-Roman world immorality in sexual matters was not immorality; it was established custom and practice." (Barclay, page 28)

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America 2014

- 39 percent of Americans believe marriage is obsolete.
- 41 percent of births in America are to parents who are unmarried.
- Nearly 60 percent of American adults believe sex between an unmarried man and woman is morally acceptable.
- Only 40 percent think it's wrong to have sex outside of marriage.
- 58 percent favor same-sex marriage

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G The Old Man Ephesians 4:17-19

G E N T I L E S	Condition	Vanity Darkened Alienated
	Cause	Ignorance Hardness of heart
	Consequences	Lasciviousness Uncleanness Greediness

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CONDITION Of The Old Man

Verse 17-18 *"other Gentiles ..."* (KJV)

"Vanity" – Emptiness, futility, the reasoning of the world. cf. Rom. 1:18-27

"Darkened in understanding" – Reasoning is clouded. cf. folly of idolatry. Psalms 115; Isaiah 44

"Alienated from the life of God." Estranged, out of fellowship. cf. Ephesians 2:1, 12

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CAUSE

Of The Condition Of The Old Man

Verse 17-18 CAUSE *"other Gentiles ..."* (KJV)

"Ignorance" – Acts 3:17; Acts 17:30; Hebrews 5:2; 1 Peter 1:14; cf. *"Willful"* ignorance. 2 Peter 3:4-7; cf. Hosea 4:6

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CAUSE

Of The Condition Of The Old Man

Verse 17-18 CAUSE *"other Gentiles..."* (KJV)

"Hardening of heart" – *παρορέω* "to harden, petrify, render insensitive. Used figuratively meaning hardness, callousness, blindness, insensitivity (Mark 3:5; Romans 11:25; Ephesians 4:18). (Complete Word Study Dictionary)

- Influence of the world. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 5; cf. Genesis 13:12-13; 1 Corinthians 15:33

- Compromise in the church. Ephesians 5:1-12

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CONSEQUENCES

Of The Condition Of The Old Man

Verse 19 *"Past feeling ..."* **To grow or become insensible, void of or past feeling.** In Ephesians 4:19 used metaphorically meaning to be insensible to honor or shame. This is the word from which the Eng. **"analgesic" is derived, meaning that which takes away pain.** (From The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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CONSEQUENCES Of The Condition Of The Old Man

Verse 19 "Past Feeling"!

apalgeo (ap-alg-eh'-o); "and *algeo* (to smart); to grieve out, *i.e. become apathetic.*"

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

*"to become callous, insensible to pain, apathetic: so those who have become insensible to truth and honor and shame are called *apeelgeekotes* (A.V., past feeling) in Ephesians 4:19."* (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 2000 by Biblesoft)

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CONSEQUENCES Of The Condition Of The Old Man

- Contrast – The Will Of God.
 - Our sanctification. *1 Thessalonians 4:3-5*
 - Moral purity & holiness in all our conduct. *1 Peter 1:13-16; 2:11-12*

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CONSEQUENCES Of The Condition Of The Old Man

Verse 19 "Past feeling" – No longer blush or feel grief for sin. cf. Jeremiah 3:3; 6:15

"Lasciviousness" – *aselgeia* "unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageous-ness, shamelessness, insolence...wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males & females" (Thayer)

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CONSEQUENCES Of The Condition Of The Old Man

Verse 19 "Past feeling" – No longer blush or feel grief for sin. cf. Jeremiah 3:3; 6:15

"Uncleanness" – *akatharsia* "in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living ... used of impure motives in *1 Thessalonians 2:3*" (Thayer, 21)

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CONSEQUENCES Of The Condition Of The Old Man

Verse 19 "Past feeling" – No longer blush or feel grief for sin. cf. Jeremiah 3:3; 6:15

"Greediness" – *pleonexia* "greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice" Luke 12:15 (Thayer)

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SUMMARY: The Old Man (The life of the unconverted Gentile)

"Do not walk as other Gentiles" Verse 17

1. Men so petrified; hardened, that they are not aware, nor do they care that they are sinning.
2. Men so dominated by sin that shame is lost.
3. Men so helpless before their lustful desires that they would destroy anything to satisfy those desires.

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The SOURCE Of Change

Verses 20-21 *"But ye did not so learn Christ"*

You were taught "Christ."

Christ did not live like this.

You cannot live like this.

You **heard him** ... been taught by **him** ... truth in Jesus.

19

PUT AWAY The Old Man

Verse 22 Colossians 3:8-9

Romans 6:1-6 Old man crucified

- Old man must be "*put off*" before the new man can be "*put on.*" cf. Titus 2:11ff
- End of the old man.
 - "*Corrupt.*" Progressively worse. (rotten)
 - "*after the lusts of deceit.*" Sin promises and doesn't deliver.

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