

PNEUMANETICS

ORIGINAL

BOOK 13

BECOMING WHO YOU ALREADY ARE

(BUILDING A CHRISTIAN IDENTITY)

BY
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WORKBOOK

DAY ONE

WHO AM I? REASON VS. REVELATION

Read Ephesians 4:17-24. As you read, consider the significance of the incredible truth of what God wants to do in us: to absolutely renew our minds. God's Word is the foundation upon which we can build our faith while He is in the process of transforming us. In particular, pay close attention to verses 17-19.

1. In your own words, write what you think Paul is saying in this passage.

2. **Paul uses the word walk to mean "lifestyle." In your own words, what does Paul say in this passage about what our lifestyle should not be?**

3. Paul carefully selects certain keywords to convey specific meaning. In this passage, one such keyword is **affirm**, a solemn declaration. (Other translations say *testify* or *witness*.) Paul is “bearing witness” to what God has revealed to him, “testifying” to its truth. Based on his decision to use such a strong word, how important do you think he considers what he’s saying to be? Why do you think he considers it so critical?

4. Two other words Paul uses are **futility** and **darkened**, describing both the mindset we had before we became Christians and the mindset of non-Christians. The Greek word translated here as **futility** can mean “aimless, in vain, without anchor or purpose, or no goal.” What do you think Paul means by the phrase the futility of their mind?

7. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. As Paul uses it in this verse, what does the word “blinded” imply to you?

8. Based on the passages you’ve just been reading, do you think the non-Christian is able to understand the truth of God on his own? Why or why not? What might prevent them from understanding?

9. What Paul seems to be saying is that when man fell and sin permeated his being, it created in him a type of spiritual insanity. According to Paul, man cannot comprehend spiritual truth in and of himself. If that is true, what is it then that man can understand?

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

10. What do you feel the above tells us about demonic activity among the unbelievers?

11. In verse 19, Paul uses the phrase, **given themselves over**, which means surrendering control to another. In other words, the very things the person was seeking to possess now possess them! Read 2 Peter 2:19. In the second half of this verse, what does Peter say happens?

12. The Greek word translated as practice in verse 19 is *ergasia* (ayr-gah-SEE-uh), which literally means “work” or “business.” Paul is saying that sin has become the very livelihood of the non-Christian. If this is so, what would you say is controlling them?

- [illegible]

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- This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DAY THREE

CONTRAST

For today's assignment, we will look at the differences between the way Christians and non-Christians behave. Read Ephesians 4:17-21.

1. In your own words, what is Paul saying in verse 20?

2. Are any of the behaviors or attitudes that Paul uses to describe the non-Christian things that we see in Christ?

3. In verse 21, Paul assumes that we have both heard and been taught in Christ. What do you think he means by that? What, specifically, is Paul assuming that we have been taught?

4. In John 14:6, what does Jesus claim about Himself?

5. In your own words, what does John 1:14 claim about Jesus?

6. Based on John 1:14, would you say that Jesus is the very embodiment of truth?

7. If Jesus is truth in and of Himself, what does this tell us about truth?

10. Describe the ways the Christian's lifestyle should be different from that of the non-Christian.

11. Do you think it would be possible for the Christian to return to the kind of lifestyle Paul describes in Ephesians 4:17-19? Why or why not?

12. In what ways would you say that "old lifestyle" might still be ingrained into our minds?

DAY FOUR

WHAT WE ARE NOW

Today we'll look at how our beliefs can be changed, so that our behavior conforms to the life of Jesus. Once again, re-read Ephesians 4:22-24.

1. What does Paul use as his point of reference in verse 22?

2. Also in verse 22, what is Paul referring to when he uses the word **former**?

3. In your own words, describe what you think Paul means by the phrase “your former manner of life.”

4. When Paul speaks of the “old self,” what does he mean?

5. Would you say that the old self comprises all that you were when you were a non-Christian?

6. The terms “old self,” “old man,” and “old nature” are all synonyms referring to the identity you had prior to becoming a Christian. This identity’s behavior is consistent with what Paul revealed in earlier verses. In verse 22, what does Paul say we are to do with this old identity?

9. We should be stripping off the characteristics of our old identity because it's still in the process of being corrupted—and at an ever-increasing rate. That means that we cannot rehabilitate the old identity, nor even simply salvage the best of it. Read Galatians 2:20 and Romans 8:13. What are we supposed to do with the old identity?

10. According to Ephesians 4:22–23, as we make deliberate choices to **put off** the things of our old identity, what begins to happen?

11. The word **renewed** means to be “changed, renovated by an inward transformation.” Renewing literally means making something or someone new with something that was not there before. Is it possible for us to renew ourselves, or is it something only God can do? Why is this so?

12. What part can we play in the process of our renewal?

13. Review the following worksheet, which lists the characteristics and activities of the old identity:

CHARACTERISTICS/ACTIVITIES OF THE FLESH

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Unrighteousness | 21. Worldliness |
| 2. Wickedness | 22. Defilement |
| 3. Control | 23. Souliness |
| 4. Malice | 24. Disorderliness |
| 5. Envy | 25. Despising authority |
| 6. Murder | 26. Bondage |
| 7. Strife | 27. Lack of mercy |
| 8. Swindling | 28. Impure motives |
| 9. Double-mindedness | 29. Immorality |
| 10. Gossip | 30. Deceitfulness |
| 11. Slander | 31. Covetousness |
| 12. God-hating | 32. Idolatry |
| 13. Insolence | 33. Reviling |
| 14. Arrogance | 34. Drunkenness |
| 15. Boasting | 35. Disloyalty |
| 16. Inventing evil | 36. Fornication |
| 17. Disobedience | 37. Self-abuse |
| 18. Untrustworthiness | 38. Effeminacy |
| 19. Lacking understanding | 39. Homosexuality |
| 20. Unloving | 40. Thieving |

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 41. Impurity | 75. Foul language |
| 42. Timidity | 76. Licentiousness |
| 43. Sorcery | 77. Dissipation |
| 44. Enmities | 78. Enticing |
| 45. Strife | 79. Empty conceit |
| 46. Jealousy | 80. Quenching the Spirit |
| 47. Anger | 81. Greediness |
| 48. People pleasing | 82. Resisting the Spirit |
| 49. Selfishness | 83. Grieving the Spirit |
| 50. Anxiety | 84. Adultery |
| 51. Favoritism | 85. Laziness |
| 52. Quarreling | 86. Selfish ambition |
| 53. Disputes | 87. Legalism |
| 54. Dissensions | 88. Perversions |
| 55. Factions | 89. Sensuality |
| 56. Carousing | 90. Fleshliness |
| 57. Lying | 91. Contention |
| 58. Stealing | 92. Lust |
| 59. Bitterness | 93. Foul-mindedness |
| 60. Wrathfulness | 94. Unruliness |
| 61. Clamoring | 95. Pride |
| 62. Filthiness | 96. Doubting |
| 63. Silly talk | 97. Abuse |
| 64. Coarse jesting | 98. Disbelieving |
| 65. Passion | 99. Uncleaness |
| 66. Evil desires | 100. Division |
| 67. Viciousness | 101. Carnality |
| 68. Partiality | 102. Manipulation |
| 69. Guile | 103. Self-will |
| 72. Hatred | |
| 73. Impurity | |
| 74. Faithlessness | |

DAY FIVE

RECOGNIZING WHO WE ARE

This final day of exercises is designed to help you learn how to recognize your new identity. Read Ephesians 4:24 once again.

1. What does Paul instruct us to **put on** in this verse?

2. What does this verse tell us about our new identity?

3. In the process of putting off the old self, it's important that we learn what to put on in its place. Look up each of the following verses and write what they say we should be putting on.

- Romans 13:12

- Romans 13:14

- 1 Corinthians 1:30

- 2 Corinthians 5:21

- Galatians 3:27

- Ephesians 6:11, 14

- Colossians 3:10

- Colossians 3:12

- 1 Thessalonians 5:8

4. After whose pattern and likeness is our new identity created?

5. In your own words, write what you think “created in the image of God” means.

6. We cannot manufacture a relationship with Christ, nor our own righteousness. Both of these are things God must do for us. When we receive Christ, God imputes righteousness to us, meaning that we take on Christ's righteousness as our own. According to Philippians 3:9, where do we get true righteousness?

7. Besides righteousness, what else does Ephesians 4:24 say we receive with our new identity?

8. What does Peter command that we do in 1 Peter 1:15-16?

Note: *Just as with righteousness, holiness is an imputed trait. The Holy Spirit is our source of holiness, creating holiness within us. A holy life is simply the outward manifestation of an inward work of grace. We must accept holiness as our own personal possession. When we live a holy life, that's how others see Christ in us. You can recognize a holy life because it separates itself from things and activities that are sinful and worldly and therefore evil.*

9. Now you've read what the Bible has to say about holiness and righteousness. Do both of these things simply come "automatically" with your new identity?
