

WALKING IN RESURRECTION LIFE

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

(Into His Likeness series #5)

Introduction: When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44), Lazarus had new life, but was still bound by stinking grave clothes. He needed to be rid of the old in order to walk in the new. Skip Hietzig said, “Take off the GRAVE clothes and put on the GRACE clothes”. The unbeliever’s walk is characterized in verses 17-19. The book of Ephesians tells the believer to walk in good works (2:10), worthy of our calling (4:1), in love (5:1), in the light (5:8), and circumspectly (5:15). See also Col.1:10; 2:6; 1 Thes.4:1; 1 John 1:6,7; 1 John 2:6. **To walk in resurrected life, believers need to put off the old and put on the new. Ephesians 4:17-5:2 shows us how.**

- I) **PUT OFF THE OLD SELF, 4:22.** The old self belongs to our former way of life, and grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts.
 - A) Our old nature cannot please God, Rom. 8:5-8. See also Rom.5:10; James 4:4; Rom. 7:18. The old nature cannot be simply disciplined into godliness (asceticism), Col.2:20-23; 1 Tim. 4:3. By nature we are children of wrath and disobedience, Eph.2:3; Col. 3:5-7.
 - B) The old nature must die.
 - 1. Crucified with Christ, Rom.6:6; 8:36; Gal.2:20; 6:14; 5:24,25; Col.2:20; 3:3-10; 1Tim.2:11; 2 Cor. 5:14,15; 1 Cor. 15:31.
 - 2. The believer is to “take up his cross”. In the Roman world, one only took up a cross to die upon it. Matt. 16:24; 10:38; Luke 9:23; 14:27.
 - C) How to ‘put off’ the old self.
 - 1. Reckon/consider yourself crucified with Jesus, Rom.6:11. Believe and confess that you are crucified with Jesus.
 - 2. Yield to the Spirit’s work, Rom.8:13; 1 Pet. 1:2.

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

- II) **PUT ON THE NEW SELF, 4:22-24.**
 - A) Receive resurrected life, be born again, and consider yourself raised with Christ. Eph. 2:4-6; Col.2:13; 3:1,2; Rom. 6:9-11.
 - B) The believer has been made “NEW”. *KAINOS* (GK), ‘new as to quality, of a different nature from what is contrasted as old.’. Kittle – “New in nature, different from the usual, superior in value or attraction.”
 - 1. *KAINOS* in the N.T.: Heb. 8:8; Matt. 26:28; John 13:24; Rev. 5:9; 14:3; Rev. 21:1,5; 2 Pet. 3:13.
 - 2. “According to God”, or born of God, 1 John 3:9; 4:6; 5:14. **(OVER)**

- C) The believer is a new CREATION. *KTISIS/KTIZO*, (GK). 'to call into existence' (Kittle). 2Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph.2:10,15; Col. 3:10.
- D) Putting on the new self requires renewing the mind, 4:23. The old mind is described in 4:17,18. See also Rom. 12:1,2; Psalm 1:1-3; Prov. 4:20-23.

RAISED WITH CHRIST

III) PUT AWAY, 4:25- 5:2.

- A) When are you no longer who you used to be? Answer: When you become the opposite! See 4:25-32.
- B) Walk in newness (*KAINOTES*), Rom. 6:4; 7:6; Luke 5:36-39. Put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the old self, Rom.13:14.
- C) Don't grieve the Holy Spirit, 4:30. Walk in fellowship and communion with the Holy Spirit, 2 Cor. 13:14.
- D) NOW (after you are born again, partaking of the divine nature, being transformed) you can IMITATE Jesus, 5:1. *MIMEOMAI*, (GK), 'mimic, an actor', also translated 'follow'. Heb. 13:7; 3 John 11; 2 Thes.3:7-9; 1 Cor. 4:16; 1 Cor. 11:1; Heb. 6:12; Eph. 5:1,2; Walk as Jesus walked, 1 John 2:6.

WALKING WITH CHRIST