



HANDOUT

Lesson 6: Ephesians 4:17-5:7

THE BOOK OF

EPHESIANS

DISCUSS

How have you heard the idea that all religions are the same expressed? Why do you think people say that?

What's similar about different religions? Do you think people who believe all religions are the same have a good understanding of Christianity?

What sets our faith apart? How are we different?

Why is Paul talking poorly of the Gentiles in Ephesians 4:17–19 when, earlier, he was talking about their inclusion in the church? How does he describe the "Gentile" way of life?

Take a look at verses 20–22. What "way of life" have we learned from Christ?

Look for the words "old" and "new" in these verses. What do you find?

So if you are "being made new" or "renewed" in your attitude, who is doing the renewing?

In verse 24, who has "created" the "new self" to be "like God"? Who puts off the old self? Who puts on the new self?

Stepping back to look at verses 17–24, how does this "way of Christ" compare with the way of "the Gentiles"—that is, those who don't know God?

What four areas of behavior do you see in verses 25–29?

What should we do instead of speaking falsehood and why?

How does being "one body" affect the way we should treat each other?

The verse on anger might be paraphrased as, "Anger will happen, but don't let it lead you into sinful outbursts." But what else does it tell us about anger?

What are we supposed to do instead of stealing?

What are we supposed to use instead of "unwholesome language"?

What do you think it means to "grieve" the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean to be "sealed for the day of redemption"?



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LIVE IT OUT

Confession: This passage mentions various behaviors we should examine in ourselves. Where have we strayed from the way of Jesus, especially in the areas of truth-telling, angry outbursts, stealing, and destructive language? But don't just feel guilty about these things—confess them and carry a new commitment to live God's way.

Communication Review: Take some time to evaluate your patterns of communication: at home, in the church, and at work. Are you telling the whole truth, or just avoiding technical lies? Are you building others up? Consider healthier habits you could work on.

Anger Cleanse: Every night before bed, get rid of your anger. Apologize, confess, make peace with those who may be the cause of your anger, and commit to sorting things out in the morning, if need be. You won't solve every problem, but it can mean stronger relationships and better sleep.

Peacemaking: The biblical discussion of stealing raises an interesting idea. *How much are you taking and how much are you giving?* We're not talking about theft, but about love. Is your work all about gathering resources for yourself? Or are you "doing something useful with your hands" in order to "share with those in need"?

Accountability: Invite a trusted Christian friend to check up on you as you find new ways to put on the "new self" and learn the way of Christ.