

# Easy As 1-2-3



## Ephesians 4:17-32<sup>1</sup>

### It's As Easy As 1-2-3

Select where you would like to begin and enjoy!

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## Overall Understanding

Paul continues to emphasize how what Jesus accomplished in us will supernaturally lead to practical godly living and love among the body of Christ.

### Ephesians 4:17-32<sup>2</sup>

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

**Because of all that God has done in you and the unification of the Jew and Gentile, live this way.**

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk,

**Don't live like the rest of the Gentiles, those who are not saved.**

in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup>having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup>who, being past feeling, have

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<sup>1</sup> © C. D. Hildebrand

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given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Futility of mind  
Darkened understanding  
Alienated from the life of God  
Ignorance in them  
Blindness of their heart  
Past feeling  
Given over to lewdness  
Work all uncleanness  
Greediness

These descriptions should never describe a believer in Jesus Christ who has been rescued from such behavior.

<sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Basically, don't live like you used to live. Christians do not have an old man and a new man. The old man is dead, and we are new creations. We have been changed from the inside out. We are free from being ruled by sin.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Here are more descriptions of how the unredeemed person lives:  
Deceitful lusts  
Lying  
Speak lies  
Unbridled anger  
Ongoing wrath  
Giving place to the devil  
Stealing  
Lazy

## Selfish

Our lives will be opposite. We will speak the truth in love to each other. This is not only about not lying, but about speaking the truth of the gospel to each other.

Anger is a human emotion, but Christians are able to control their anger so as not to harm someone. Even before the sun goes down, we will forgive.

We don't need to steal because we work. We prosper in our work so that we can give to others.

We do not give place to the devil. We stand against his lies.

<sup>29</sup>Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

This is a description of how we build each other up. Instead of tearing down, let us edify. Impart grace in our words and teaching.

<sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

This isn't about upsetting the service with a crying baby. It has more to do with grieving God by not loving each other or by not speaking the truth about the gospel.

<sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup>And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

The things that we are told to put away from us are also a description of the ungodly, unredeemed person. Instead of being evil to each other, we are kind and tenderhearted. We forgive from our hearts because we have also been forgiven much.

## *Coming Up in Chapter 5:1-20*

In the first part of chapter five, Paul continues contrasting our lives to the lives of the ungodly, reasoning with them based on the glorious accomplishments of Jesus in their lives.