Introduction: “A tale of two butterflies”

A new life always *demands* a new lifestyle

2 Corinthians 5:17

**WARNING**: Two common errors to avoid

1. Moralism

2. Antinomianism

**A believer whose life does not change = An Oxymoron:**

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NIV)

17 So I tell you this and insist on it in the Lord, *that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do,* in the *futility of their thinking.*

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18a They are *darkened* in their understanding and *separated* from the life of God

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18b because of the *ignorance* that is in them due to the *hardening* of their hearts.

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19 Having lost all *sensitivity,* they have given themselves over to *sensuality,* so as to indulge in every kind of *impurity,* with a continual *lust* for more.
20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.

21 Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him, in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

22 You were taught with regard to your former way of life,

- to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;
- to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
- and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1. As believers, our lives must be progressively characterized by ____________________
   ____________________.

   Ephesians 4:17-19

2. An ____________________ _________________________ is inconceivable for us as believers for two reasons:

   a) It contradicts ____________________ we are!    Ephesians 4:20

   b) It contradicts ____________________ Christ is!   Ephesians 4:21
3. We achieve __________________________ ____________________________ by following God’s three-fold principles of transformation.

Ephesians 4:22-24

a) “Put-off” (point in time) the old!

b) ___________________________ (continuously) in the spirit of your mind!

c) “Put-on” (point in time) the new!

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you summarize the main point outlined in Ephesians 4:17-24?

2. Briefly discuss the three views of moral purity as it relates to a believer’s life.

- **Moralism** – My moral purity earns God’s favor.

- **Antinomianism** – Moral purity is irrelevant because grace super abounds when I sin.

- **Biblical** – Moral purity is the natural outgrowth of who I am as a child of God and it reflects His character and holiness.
3. In what area of your life did God convict you personally? In what ways do your thinking, actions, speech, or attitude not reflect the “new you?”

4. What will it look like this week to follow God’s three-fold principles for transformation? Be as specific as possible.

   (a) I will “put off” __________________________ this week by . . .

   (b) I will “renew my mind” this week by ______________________. . .

   (c) I will “put on” __________________________ this week by . . .